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User Report

VANCOUVER THERAPY GROUPS FOR ASSAULTIVE MALES: A PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

This report describes a pilot project, co-sponsored by the federal Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Attorney General of B.C., to provide group therapy in Vancouver for men who had assaulted their spouses. Men were recruited into the program in three ways (in order of project priority): (1) directed by the court to attend as a condition of probation; (2) referred by family court counsellors, and (3) referred by others or self-referred. In the year from June 1982 to May 1983, five groups were run under the leadership of co-counsellors.

The actions that project leaders took to successfully overcome start-up problems - both anticipated and unexpected - are outlined. The clients are profiled, some program considerations (including intake criteria, optimal group size, staggered vs. cohort entry, and issues raised by mandated therapy) are discussed and initial reactions of spouses to the therapy groups are noted. Mechanisms to ensure project liaison with spouses and referral agents and follow-up with clients are considered. The report concludes with a brief look at strategies to assess the value of therapeutic intervention.

NOTE TO READERS

Privacy regulations of the funder make necessary the deletion of names from the text of the report to expedite its dissemination. The effect of this editing, however, can convey a forced, anonymous feeling, particularly in the sections which trace the development of the project. There is no intention to deny full recognition to the many individuals who have contributed to the formation of the assaultive males therapy group program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Therapy groups for wife assaulters represent a new and rapidly growing program response to the problem of wife battering. In particular, they are increasingly popular within the justice system because groups seem to offer a wide variety of potential benefits in encouraging better reporting, successful prosecution and more effective disposition. This report documents the operation of a one year demonstration project in Vancouver which was jointly funded by the Ministry of the Solicitor-General, Canada and Corrections Branch, Ministry of Attorney General of B.C.

Vancouver has been a pioneering centre for such groups in Canada. The project described here derives many of its features from local experimentations, beginning in 1977, in running assaultive males' therapy groups. The major innovation introduced this time was to form the groups around men who were court-ordered to attend as a condition of their sentence. In fact, group members were recruited in various ways - through self-referral and voluntary referrals both from within and outside the court system - but first priority was given to family-court-mandated clients.

Clients Served

In the period from June 1982 through May 1983, five groups were conducted, in each case under the direction of a pair of therapists. Thirty-four men were referred; 27 actually participated in the sixteen-week-long program. The average client was 32 years of age, with grade 12 education, had been married only once, had 2 children, and was currently separated from his spouse after eight years of marriage. The men represented a wide range of occupations, mostly blue collar, and were about equally divided among Canadian and foreign-born. While the program requires men to attend group sessions in a sober condition, a number of the men had some drinking problems.

Most of the men had been charged with common assault although the level and history of violence varied from slight to extreme. In reporting on the conflict tactics which characterized their domestic disputes, it is interesting to note that both husbands and wives reported a lot of verbal aggression and perceived each other as poor in reasoning skills. On average, the men reported their spouses' most extreme act as slapping while they admitted to beating their wives.

Therapy Group Concept

The groups use a learning model. Group leaders, through discussion, confrontation and exercises, lead the men to: accept responsibility for their violence; recognize it as an inappropriate and destructive attempt to deal with unresolved stress; understand their own danger signs and emotional trigger points; and learn methods of defusing the situation.

In the short term, the men may have to depend on coping mechanisms such as the "time-out" (a cue to walk away from a potential fight until they re-establish control of themselves) or self-relaxation techniques to help them calm down. As the men begin to exhibit some ability to control their violence, they can learn new approaches to resolving conflicts - better communication skills, self-assertiveness and more positive male/female role relations.

The groups are also a close monitoring device. A "violence-check" (a selfreport of any violent incidents) and an "anger diary" (recording events that led to an angry response and how the man attempted to deal with it) are central features of every meeting. In addition to the control exercised by experienced group leaders, the other group members can be very skillful at sensing evasion or uncovering half-truths and self-serving statements. The very aspects of group process that offer support also act as an additional external control.

Client Recruitment

Experience from this project holds lessons for the organization and implementation of therapy group programs. One major focus of the report is on client recruitment because, especially in the early stages, the number of clients referred by the courts did not meet original expectations. Both the need for such a resource and the commitment of court personnel to it were called into question.

Examination showed that initial restriction of referrals to the post-conviction stage, plus ordinary hesitation when confronted with a new program concept and some uncertainty about the referral criteria, all combined to cut down referrals. Staff altered the referral base to admit clients from other family courts in the region and, on a second priority basis, court-referred voluntary clients and referrals from other sources. The full implications of these changes have not been felt, however, as satisfactory referral levels were achieved before follow-up on expansion had been completed. Most notably, only the judges in Vancouver proper were fully involved as referral agents; other courts remain peripherally involved.

Promotion

Promotional activities were directed at two audiences - the general public (to sensitize them to issues of wife assault) and potential referral agents. Relatively little effort needed to be expended on the former, largely because the mass media took considerable interest in the topic and the project itself from the start. In addition to numerous interviews, the group leaders were in demand to give public talks and various workshops.

Much more work was required to cultivate referral sources. A mailing of project brochures, arrangement for articles and announcements in professional newsletters and even memos from senior officials about referral procedures appear mainly to create general awareness. Beyond that, a series of follow-up meetings with justice system staff proved essential. Once a number of referral agents got some experience using the new resource, word of mouth began to be a potent factor.

Program Considerations

Staggered membership (a new cohort of clients entering the group every 8 weeks) was adopted by the group leaders in order to cut down on the waiting time between intake interviews and joining the program. A strong secondary benefit also accrues from this procedure. The men who are half-way through the program suddenly find themselves in the role of "veteran" and make additional progress both in helping to orient and teach the new members and through a fresh appreciation of the progress they themselves have made.

Attendance and completion. Men are required to attend every week except for bona fide excuses such as unavoidable work schedule conflict or illness (and these absences should be made good at the end). Two absences in a row without excuse result in the man being dropped from the program.

Attendance was quite regular for all categories of clients (court-directed, court-referred voluntary and other voluntary), averaging nearly 85%. Drop-out rates, however, were significant. Disregarding clients who were accepted into the program but who either never showed up or decided against the therapy after a first session (and some attempt should be made to determine why they rejected the program), roughly 2 in 5 clients did not complete the full course of sessions.

This average, however, disguises a very significant difference in the completion rate of men recruited through the court system compared with other voluntary clients. The drop-out rate for court-directed clients was only 23%, for court-referred clients 40%, but for other voluntary referrals 66%. It seems that the added leverage obtained through justice system intervention is an important motivator.

Length of sentence. The sixteen-week group period (with a few weeks grace in case of illness or other emergency), plus a four-week average intake and waiting period, implies that the least sentence that would cover the program is six months probation. To deal with men whose therapy needs to be extended and also to encourage full use of the follow-up sessions available to clients after group completion, a longer sentence, say 1 year, seems to be desirable. Initial analysis of the dispositions in assault cases in the family court suggests that many are not as long as this. Thus, to fully establish the benefits of the therapy group program, longer sentences for conviction on assault or threatening charges should be sought.

Liaison. Interviews with the clients' spouses showed a very clear need for closer liaison by program staff. Partly as a result of this, an informational letter, an initial interview and periodic contact with the women are being initiated by the therapists. (This is all in addition to possible couple counselling offered as a follow-up service.) The aim of this liaison is to make the goals and nature of the program clear to the women from the beginning and thereby avoid any suggestion that only the men's side is being listened to or that the men are learning new (psychological) weapons to be used against their spouses. Where couples are still living together, the women are encouraged to report any hint of renewed violence (which also assists in the close

monitoring of the men). In any case, the women are given information about support services available to them.

Liaison with referral agents, most notably family court counsellors, has been less problematic. Here too, however, informal (largely telephone) contact, which has been fairly substantial, is being augmented by introduction of several new record forms. In particular, a completion form noting the man's attendance or apparent reasons for drop-out is sent by the therapists for inclusion in the case file.

Information System

Documentation, which was incomplete at project inception, has improved over the pilot period. New referral and intake forms provide basic information about the man, his spouse, the precipitating violent incident, the justice system intervention and some case history. Baseline attitudinal information - notably the Straus Conflict Tactics Scale - is collected at intake. Short case notes are to be filled out after each group session; attendance records are also kept. Still in formative stages are follow-up records. Forms to record contacts with spouses and with referral agents would also be useful in building up full case files. For internal research purposes, the "anger diary" entries submitted weekly by the men have potential.

Evaluation

This report describes aspects of program organization and development. Now that the program is more mature, two sets of evaluation research questions should be addressed more closely. The first has to do with system impacts - from handling the initial report through laying charges, prosecution, disposition and correctional action. Changes that appear to be taking place in case management as a result of this program resource should be charted.

The second, and more difficult, evaluation task is to begin to build up data that addresses program outcome, the extent to which clients can be shown to have changed their behaviour and learned to avoid violence. Follow-up monitoring would provide some evidence. However, as careful controls are necessary to demonstrate such changes, the retrospective assembly of a "control group" of assaulters who appear to have been suitable for group therapy but were not referred to the program should be attempted. In view of the fact that long-term support for the concept of men's therapy groups depends on a convincing analysis of its worth as a treatment, a start on this question shold be given priority now.

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INTRODUCTION

Therapy groups for wife assaulters represent the newest program response to the problem of wife battering. When the first groups here in Vancouver were being planned in 1977, there were really no models to follow in Canada and very little literature available on any of the handful of groups in the U.S. The next few years, however, saw an explosion of such groups; 150 or more were running in the United States in 1982 (Mettger, 1982). Interest in Canada has grown apace and 1982 seemed to mark a take-off point of sorts here; two programs were operating in Vancouver and others were running (or in an advanced planning stage) in Calgary, Fredericton, Guelph, London, Mississauga, Ottawa, St. John, Toronto, Windsor and Winnipeg.*

Most groups seem to share a broadly similar analysis of the problem and many use comparable approaches. However, one major dimension along which such groups do vary is in relation to client recruitment and the associated issue of the terms on which men participate in the group. At one end is the voluntary self-help group - some based on an Alcoholics Anonymous approach (eg., Batterers Anonymous - see Goffman, 1980). Next is the counsellor-led group based on a men's consciousness-raising group model (see Emerge)**. Like the self-help group, membership is voluntary and recruitment is through a mix of sources. A third major grouping consists of programs offered in conjunction with or recruiting mainly through women's emergency shelters or transition houses*** (and see Fleming, 1981). In the crisis period created when his spouse has managed to leave the battering situation and is sorting out her options, the batterer - whether out of remorse, fear of abandonment, anxiety because of his strong dependency on his spouse, etc. - may be amenable to seeking group therapy.

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* Information courtesy of the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, Health and Welfare Canada.

** Also see the publication OURS (formerly Machomania), which aims to explore the roots of male aggression. It takes the position that all men must face up to this problem of violence ("the problem is ours") and not create false divisions by stigmatizing some men, "batterers", as the problem group.

*** Emerge, given as an example of a mixed recruitment strategy, reports that, in fact, roughly half of its self-referrals hear of the program through their wives' contacts with emergency shelters.

The fourth type of program is attached to the justice system. Recruitment is primarily through the court, either diversion pre-trial (see CWPS, 1981) or post-conviction, when batterers may be mandated to enter therapy as part of their sentence. The latter, especially, is still a controversial approach because failure in therapy may constitute a breach of the man's probation order and thus therapists start with considerable leverage with the client. At issue are both the ethics of mandated therapy and the pragmatics of whether justice system leverage is an effective client motivator or instead induces further resistance to change.

The program described in this paper has, at various points in its history, experimented with different recruitment postures and has a good deal to say about several. Most importantly, the current project, while it admits men recruited in various ways, is primarily aimed at providing the courts with a therapy group sentencing option. A major focus of this paper, therefore, is assessing the significance of such a resource as part of the justice system response to wife assault.

The Concept

The therapy groups for assaultive males, in their goals and methods, are based on a theory of the batterer and why he batters.* At base, it assumes that the man's violence is learned, an inappropriate and destructive way of meeting his needs (for a sense of control or an illusion of mastery).

> We hold men responsible for their own violence and have a commitment to the necessity of personal responsibility for change and growth.
>
> We believe that men learn to be violent through witnessing violence or being the object of verbal or physical abuse. Wife-abuse usually occurs under stress when more effective coping and conflict resolution skills are lacking. Then violence is used to express pent-up rage and gain control in intimate relationships....

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* Key sources cited in this and other therapy group projects include Bandura (1973) and Novaco (1975). The underlying approach in this program owes much to Ganley and Harris (1978) and Ganley (1981).

> An understanding of the dynamics of aggression, of one's own collection of hurts and disappointments, of the fear behind the anger, can help men to learn a new set of reactions to conflict. (Therapy Group brochure)

The goal of group therapy is for the man to recognize and confront his violence, begin the process of "unlearning" it and find some workable techniques in the short-term for avoiding or defusing violence, and finally replace the problem behaviour with a new, expanded repertoire of appropriate non-violent interactional responses.

Batterers are often prone to deny and minimize their violence. Many are genuinely self-deluding; a very small number are so out of control while battering that they "black-out" and suppress all details of their violence. Most are also supported in their denial by beliefs which stereotype sex roles and male/female relations ("she's my wife and I can do with her as I like", "she asked for it", "she never does what she's supposed to", "I warned her", "she knows just how to get at me", etc.). To learn that violence is not an appropriate response, the men must give up the self-protection of denial. One major step in this direction is teaching group members to describe the battering in concrete detail, step by step and blow by blow - not hiding it, attempting to justify it or obscuring it in generalities.

Another common problem of batterers that group therapy addresses is a narrow emotional range: the tendency to perceive strong emotion as anger, and the inability to monitor their own reactions (they may report feeling fine right up until the point when they are violently enraged). Among the ways the therapy group process deals with this problem is to have the man report in detail not only his violent actions and any apparent triggering patterns but also tell-tale signs of increasing tension. The men are taught to recognize changes in muscle tension, posture, shortened breathing, etc.; physiological cues which they perhaps ignored previously. Relaxation techniques can complement these exercises.

When anger is recognized and violence acknowledged, batterers need some initial methods of dealing with the problems they now confront. The most straightforward are avoidance tactics. One that can be introduced very early is the "time-out". This is an agreement about a signal that either of the spouses can use when he or she becomes aware that the batterer is about to go out of control. By pre-arrangement, the signal is meant to cue the man to immediately leave the room (and preferably the house) and, for example, walk off the energy of his mounting anger, returning later when he feels under control again. Success with this technique can give a man the first real indication that he has the resources and self-control to deal with conflict without resorting to violence.

A general tool that helps a man overcome his denial, look for signs of his anger and triggers to violence, and once he has learned these things, to think through how he handles conflict, is the "anger diary". In this project, the diary is the "admission ticket" to the weekly evening group meeting. In it, the man records, between sessions, all incidents that provoked anger, his awareness of his emotions, and his success at steering away from violence.

Different ways of expressing the violence are isolated: physical assault; sexual assault; psychological battering (including forced isolation from relatives or friends and constant insults or belittling, all of which wears down the woman's ability to defend herself or seek help); intimidation (based on the premise that, especially where a man has shown himself to be physically violent, a threat or a gesture may be enough to frighten and cow his partner); and destruction of property (e.g., hacking a knife through the bedroom door to get the point across). Once a man learns some techniques to avoid or short-circuit these expressions of violence, he needs to begin learning and putting into practice a new repertoire of problem-solving skills to replace a simple resort to violence.

Group meetings begin with a "violence check", a quick go-round in which each man is required to report any violent incidents in the past week. This

self-report emphasizes the monitoring function of the group and the primacy of the goal of avoiding violence. As well, it generates, together with the anger diaries, material for priority discussion. Group leaders may also introduce specific topics, providing information and guiding discussion around key issues which focus on self-revelation and an increased appreciation of self-control - why and when the man drinks heavily, what are his feelings about the need to "get even", are women stereotyped as either good/mothers or bad/ whores, is self respect achieved by always hanging tough or by showing flexibility? Discussion can be supplemented with other techniques such as role-play that help the men understand their reactions and practise new skills.

Therapy in a group has several advantages (aside from that of reduced cost per client). If skillfully led (and that is a precondition for all that follows), the group helps men confront their violence and denial as they make connections between others' experiences and their own. Each man provides fresh material, not placing too great a burden on anyone who may not be able to articulate certain things yet. Each man is more or less in the same boat and can't easily be conned by an evasive answer or a rationalization. More positively, men who are making quicker progress (or have been in the group longer) than others can act as acceptable models of change and also become actively involved in teaching their fellows, in the same process deepening and reinforcing their new skills. The self-revelations men make in the confidential circle of the group can bring individuals together, providing a man with a confidant he trusts and feels able to call on for support and advice outside the group. This project encourages this informally; some groups set up a formal "buddy" system to utilize this support.

This therapy group ends after 16 sessions. Dealing with patterns of violence that may have been learned over many years, the program can only outline new skills and guide a batterer over the first hump in learning and living them. Follow-up is generally indicated.

> Three follow-up sessions are part of the program for each man.* These sessions may be taken individually with one of the therapists or, for couples who choose to remain together, the follow-up sessions can be used as couples counselling to improve communications after the threat of violence has been reduced. (Therapy Group brochure)

The Promise of Therapy Groups for Batterers

The major promise of therapy groups for assaultive males is that they will teach men to stop being violent. Proving the worth of this promise is no simple (or inexpensive) matter. No therapy program works for everyone. No program based on a learning model can assure one that men are going to cast off established patterns and perfect new ways of interacting the first try. There can be no guarantee against backsliding, or even, in extreme cases, that some men will be so affected by the therapy program that they will lash out spectacularly or destroy themselves. Indeed, guarantees of this kind would not only be dangerously misleading but contrary to all therapeutic experience. At this point, what can be confirmed is that the theoretical underpinnings of therapy group approaches strike one as plausible, that the connections between the techniques used and the problems identified by the theory are logical, that the approach is based on a growing body of clinical experience and that people can point to successes. We know of no full-scale scientific attempts to prove that therapy groups stop violence. In any case, it is premature to evaluate the therapy group project in its first year of operation (see the discussion under Evaluation below).

If the extent to which therapy groups work cannot yet be documented, there are a number of other advantages to the concept that has enhanced its promise and made for the rapid spread of therapy group programs. Of particular import, the advantages of a therapy group concept seem to be most marked in court-mandated programs. Several benefits for overall justice system response to wife assault are mooted:

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* Monitoring the follow-up activities of the program is outside the scope of this report. See the discussion under Liaison and Follow-up.

First of all, the therapy group concept fits very well within the justice system philosophy.

> Programs (of this sort) treat domestic violence as learned behaviour and emphasize the batterer's responsibility and potential for controlling it. These philosophical underpinnings are consistent with the criminal justice notions of individual responsibility and make such programs the therapy of choice for battering males. (Dutton, personal communication; also see brochure in Appendix C)

Secondly, therapy groups are attractive to judges as a sentencing option in that they are targeted at the particular criminal behaviour rather than representing simply another broad-brush general deterrent. The public demand for action to stop assaultive behaviour can be given concrete expression in the provision that an offender should work actively towards his own rehabilitation.

The probation officer sees in this program resource an opportunity to get assistance in the close monitoring of clients. The men must attend (or account for their absence) every week. The anger diaries, self-report procedures and discussion of violence at group meetings provide better checks on the recurrence of violence than the probation officer alone is likely able to assure.

And, in addition, there are other expected benefits which wash back through the criminal justice and overall social response system. Battered women, many of whom feel trapped by the lack of viable options and helpless because of the burden of blame they shoulder for their spouses' violence, need a "responsible" way out. Emergency shelters report that large numbers of women they serve welcome some sort of rehabilitation program for their abusive spouses (Egley, 1981). Where women know of the existence of batters' therapy groups, they seem to be more prone to report the violence to police and also to make use of transition houses because they see the possibility of getting their spouses to accept therapy.

In sum, assaulted wives may be both more likely to report assault and exhibit better resolve to testify and see the case through court if it means their spouse will get treatment. Both police and crown counsels' efforts are better rewarded. In addition, if the existence of a treatment group program provides the courts with a more meaningful sentencing option, and more directed dispositions result, police and justice system personnel may tend to respond favourably.

A batterers' therapy group by itself is no panacea. What does seem promising, however, is such a program as part of the wider system of response to wife assault.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Men's Support Groups in Vancouver: March 1977 to March 1980

The current Assaultive Males Therapy Group project is a direct outgrowth of an earlier one which was active more or less from March 1977 through March 1980*. The first date is that of the symposium on Family Violence, planned by United Way of the Lower Mainland in conjunction with several other organizations and funded by the three levels of government, including the Solicitor General, Canada. That symposium recommended:

> That all wife batterers be required to attend a male therapy/support or consciousness-raising type of group as a requirement to a conditional discharge, or a diversionary program. Further:
>
> - o This should only be considered as an alternative to a jail sentence if it is the first offence.
> - o These groups would take an approach to therapy which deals with male roles, aggression, and anger management.
> - o These programs should be developed under the leadership of individuals who have been active in direct dealings with the problem of wife battering, for example, Transition House workers and residents.
> - o The Federal Government should fund a pilot project of this sort in Vancouver, which could then be used as one model for all provinces to consider. It was stressed that the problem is obviously urgent, and that it would be wasteful to wait for each province to separately develop their own programs. (Ross, 1977; p. iv-3)

United Way followed-up on this symposium by striking a 50 member volunteer Task Force on Family Violence in May 1977. One of the interest-based committees of the Task Force was specifically concerned with Support Groups for Batterers. That committee was very active, eventually fostering six volunteer-

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* In yet another form, however, this first project has carried on. "Anger groups" for men have been run under the auspices of several private agencies at different times, including Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Kiwassa Neighbourhood Services Association, and North Shore Family Services (and see Appendix D).

led therapeutic support groups (starting December 1977, March 1978, May 1978, October 1978, January 1979, and July 1979). These garnered a considerable amount of local and national media attention and provided the leaders and committee members with experience on a variety of issues, some of which are summarized in the Report of the Task Force (MacLeod, 1979).

The United Way, acting on its Task Force Report, retained the committee on men's support groups. By Fall 1979, that planning committee had entered a state of near-perpetual crisis marked by the formation of a separate Women's Committee on Services for Battered Women, the withdrawal of certain committee members, the creation within the local family court system of the Vancouver Family Court Ad Hoc Committee on Family Violence (later to become the Joint Action Committee, incorporating members of the United Way and Vancouver Family Court committees), the re-entry of the Ministry of the Solicitor General as a probable funder, and the setting up of an advisory committee by the Family Services agency with overlapping membership and a mandate to determine how a United Way seed grant was to be used. These events resulted in the dissolution of the United Way committee in March 1980 and an effective end of the attempt to seek common funding for both battered women's and batterer's support groups.

A detailed chronology of events in the early development of this forerunner of the therapy groups under review is given in Appendix B(a).

Some Lessons Learned

The experience gained during the life of these "first phase" support groups and the various problems (political, methodological, tactical) encountered in the advisory and planning committees defined many approaches of the current project. Set out here are a number of these issues described in terms of the lessons they seemed to hold. We stress "seemed" to hold because some premises have been contradicted by current experience. Those instances are noted parenthetically here and taken up again later in the paper.

(a) Rationale. Experience suggests that a rationale for batterers' groups - based on society having a moral obligation to help assaultive males overcome their stunted social and emotional development or inappropriate internalization of stereotyped sex roles - may create a suspicion that feminist analysis is being used perversely to direct resources and sympathy away from battered women and towards their assailants.

Because there is already a strong tendency in the justice system to decriminalize wife battering, possibly the most successful rationale is a pragmatic one: i.e., as batterers tend either to continue living with (and battering) their spouses, or, after their departure, take up with another woman and begin the cycle of assault again, therefore, as a matter of prevention, there is value in intervention and attempts at rehabilitation to reduce or eliminate violence. This argument, in fact, was enunciated at the Family Violence Symposium in 1977 and was retained as the only basis on which a working agreement could be built between advocates of men's support groups and proponents of women's groups.

(b) Documentation and Evaluation. The initial groups suffered, despite several attempts, from a near total lack of proper documentation, a point which hampered efforts to extend the service. It was clear from the start that better documentation should be built into any demonstration project.

There is a very strong political argument for trying to assess the efficacy of group therapy in altering assaultive behavioral tendencies. As noted just above, unless the rehabilitative rationale is demonstrated, there will likely be growing opposition to what is seen as 'diversion' of always scarce funds from services for battered women. (Despite the cogency of this conclusion which has led to attempts to build in some sort of evaluation, the problems inherent in satisfying this point - and the relatively great cost involved - continue to undermine efforts.)

(c) Promotion and Referrals. The initial groups suggested that agencies were interested, among them justice system personnel, and that a device like promotional flyers, sent out regularly to announce recruitment of new groups, was sufficient to keep the program in the minds of referral agents. (This assumption has been strongly questioned, as noted below).

(d) Mandatory Referral vs. Voluntary Recruitment. The initial groups were 'voluntary' and most clients were self-referred (or referred through wives who had received some support in transition houses). Court personnel also referred a number of clients. Therapists had to begin wrestling with both the ethical question as to whether "coercive" therapy (if court-mandated or even simply strongly favoured by justice system personnel) is justifiable and the pragmatic concern about whether therapy that is not freely entered into can be successful. (In the current therapy groups, in which first preference is given to court-ordered clients, these questions are of central importance.)

(e) Publicity. The first batterer groups, pioneering affairs, were the subject of immediate and fairly high-powered media interest. It is clear that this sort of program can generate a lot of media attention, predominantly positive.

(f) Institutionalization of the Service. The initial committees looked for an appropriate agency in which to lodge the program; Family Services (a counselling agency) tried to take it on. Always in the background of attempts to place the program within an institutional setting was the issue of whether or not the service was essentially a government responsibility (and see following).

(g) Funding. Two sorts of funding issues were raised by the initial groups-- those relating to the range of services and those relating to funding responsibility. The first phase support groups were organized and led by volunteers from a variety of social services and had negligible budgets.

(The advisory committee literally tore itself apart over an $11,000 seed money grant.) They depended on professionals getting release time or voluntary work on the project. Service provision and staff training were first priorities. Documentation, ongoing planning, follow-up and evaluation, all activities which the group leaders saw as very important to the long-term viability of the project, suffered for want of time and money.

Funding responsibility was seen to rest primarily with government, and private funders were accordingly reluctant to take a leading funding role, even for a demonstration project. It was difficult, however, to pin down government responsibility precisely in a new service area. In the end, it appeared to fall within the justice envelope - as a correctional resource - rather than the social or family service spheres.

In Summary

The first groups proved to the workers involved that men's support groups were feasible. But the leaders were unable to document them properly or follow-up on cases. These goals depended on getting substantial funding and either entrenching the service under the aegis of an established agency or getting some commitment from a mandated government department.

In a typical double hook, the chance of attracting institutional sponsorship and significant funding depended on convincing documentation of the successes (and the remaining limitations) of the program. But success cannot be judged properly over the short term, and no such therapy group program anywhere in North America has yet established its success rate. This bind was exacerbated by the fact that both the group leaders and potential funders were caught up in controversy over the rationale for and mechanics of therapy groups for batterers. There were fears, especially among women's advocates, that as yet unproven programs for batterers would syphon scarce resources and attention away from their victims, among justice personnel that offenders would manipulate the justice system and evade punishment in favour of 'namby-pamby' therapy, and, among all those concerned with the victim's safety, that women

would be lured back into dangerous association with their batterers on the false promise of a therapeutic 'fix'.

The current project reflects attempts (admittedly imperfect) to overcome these problems. It is a 'demonstration' project, with some provision for documentation and follow-up. It is tied to the justice system and supported by government departments mandated in this service area. Finally, it holds out no hollow promises of a quick "cure" and is structured to try to pick up the first indication of renewed violence.

Pilot Project - Therapy Groups for Assaultive Males: April 1980 to Date

Without any real hiatus, new impetus was given to the further development of therapy groups for batterers. Again, a conference seems to provide a demarcation line. Presentations on battering at the Vancouver Family Court Management Committee Annual Conference at Parksville in April 1980 led to suggestions that therapy groups for batterers would be an appropriate service initiative for corrections. The following year and a half saw a generally predictable sequence of negotiations and consultations around the proposed demonstration project, involving corrections and the Vancouver area family courts and a federal presence through the Consultation Centre and Research Division of the Solicitor General.

A detailed unfolding of the events that led to the groups under review is given in Appendix B(b). Suffice it to mention here that in April 1981 (a year following the Vancouver Family Court Committee Conference which provided the encouragement to the therapists to establish their program), a Provincial-Federal agreement to fund the program in principle was made.

It was to be almost another year (March 1982) before the first court-referred offender was interviewed and accepted into the group. However, with the flow of clients disappointingly slow at first, the project went through various changes and promotional exercises. It is to these activities that this review now turns.

THE REFERRAL BASE, RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION

A. Referral Issues

Several project decisions had major implications for the referral base and client recruitment. The decision to restrict entry to men only after conviction choked off much of the flow of referrals that was initially anticipated. To compensate, project managers opened up the program in various ways. These points, and issues inherent in the other referral criteria, are taken up here.

1. Post-conviction entry. The program, when first offered, was meant to recruit clients by referral from the trial judge who would attach a condition of attendance in the program to the probation order or other disposition. (Note, this was a restriction not planned in the program proposal.) One reason for recruiting clients only after conviction was to avoid possible legal criticism. If an accused batterer pleaded not guilty to the charge but was convinced he had a "problem" and entered the program, this action might be seen as prejudicial to his case. From the defense's point of view, such a tacit admission might go hard for the accused. The other side of that, of concern to the prosecution, was the possibility of a successful motion to dismiss the case based on the objection that impartial adjudication had been rendered impossible. There was also possible judicial concern even if the man pleaded guilty. Prior entry into the group might be manipulative - a defense strategy to place the man in a favourable light and predetermine the nature of his sentence.*

Whatever the merit of these points of view, post-conviction recruitment has a number of clear drawbacks.** For one thing, it can delay entry into the

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* Since a cursory examination suggests that the time required to complete the program implies a longer than average sentence of probation, this may not be a constraint. See discussion on length below.

** And a number of apparent advantages as well. See discussion on court-ordered therapy below.

group for many months until the case has gone to disposition.* This has implications for therapeutic success, as motivation is generally at its height early in the crisis period following the battering incident.

A second problem, and the one which was of particular concern in this instance, is that a significant proportion of potential clients are eliminated. In the mini-survey of the Vancouver Family Court case load for the six month period from December 1979 through May 1980, half the cases did not proceed to sentencing (and see appendix M).

2. Voluntary Clients. A major expansion of the recruitment base was effected by the agreement that it was worthwhile, if space permitted, to open up the program to clients who were not then before the court. Thus, men on probation could voluntarily enter the program upon referral by their probation officer. As well, men could be referred through their family court counsellor if charges were not being pressed or had been withdrawn or a stay entered. Theoretically at least, there was no reason why a man whose charges had been dismissed could not then acknowledge a concern and enter the program. Similarly, the program could represent a general resource to family court counsellors handling various other marital matters when there was some indication of violence in the relationship. Lastly, men could self-refer or be referred by outside agencies to the people handling intake.

There has not been enough experience yet to determine what range of voluntary clients come forward. Group leader experience to date suggests that voluntary clients initially undertake the therapy with good will and participate in sessions at a par with court-directed clients but, lacking the added impetus provided by court sanctions, they tend to drop out (and see the analysis of attendance record).

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* See post-conviction entry funnel, Figure 1.

3. The Court Region. The other significant expansion of the recruitment base was to be effected by opening the program as a resource to the other courts in the Vancouver region. As the court region boundaries do not coincide with those of the Corrections region, informal priorities for client selection were developed. Clients referred by the family court counsellors within the Corrections region would have first priority. Those who were court mandated would take precedence over voluntary referrals. Clients referred by staff outside the Vancouver region had next priority. Finally, if there were still room, other referrals (including self-referrals) would be acceptable.

In fact, priority access has not become a problem because expansion has not taken place evenly throughout the region. As noted in the Chronology (Appendix B-II), program leaders met with Corrections staff on the North Shore, Richmond and Surrey. There has not yet been a comparable meeting in Burnaby. While all the judges in the region would have had notice of the program, it was not brought before any but the Vancouver Family Court judiciary as a sentencing resource. Therefore, while recruitment increased slowly almost to the point of over-subscription by the end of the pilot project, suitable justice system referrals have not yet overtaxed program capacity.

The program leaders have cultivated a few referral sources outside the court system. The chronology notes contact with Ishtar Transition House in Langley, but as well there have been referrals through certain Ministry of Human Resources and Family Services workers.*

In sum, only a fraction of the region is being tapped by the program. There is reason to question whether the possible catchment area is too vast - long travel times (among other considerations) might suggest eventual formation of groups to serve particular communities. On the other hand, Vancouver does draw commuters from this entire region and voluntary clients from a wide area have attended the groups.

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* For further discussion see the section on Promotion.

4. Selection Criteria. The project outline circulated to Vancouver Region family court services in February 1982 (see Appendix E) required that all participants must speak English, must agree to attend in a sober condition, participate readily in all sessions, and complete a weekly written anger diary.* As even these simple requirements have important implications for the recruitment base, they are taken up here.

(a) Command of English

The therapy groups make certain demands on clients in terms of increasing their ability to be introspective (or rather to be able to bring into attention their emotional state) and to verbalize their anger or aggression. The use of an "anger diary" requires some level of literacy (although not necessarily in English). Group interaction depends on willingness and minimal conversational skills.

Table VIII on client's country of birth (see Appendix A) shows that almost half the men were born outside of Canada. Metropolitan Vancouver is a major point of entry and the initial destination for many immigrants. Whatever other implications this fact has, it suggests that command of English cannot be taken for granted. The tables in Appendix A on education and occupation suggest that the men selected are at least functionally literate (although some may only be marginally so: 7 men had only grade 7 or 8).

Two clients were refused because of poor English skills and some otherwise suitable clients were simply not referred. On the other hand, it seems that at least some clients who have only basic English can be successfully incorporated into the therapy groups. One probation officer, for example, reported unexpectedly high success for one client, quite unsure of himself in English (and not too verbal in his native language in any case). He not only completed the program but was enthusiastic about the support and new insight he felt he received

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* For a comparative set of referral criteria, see the discussion in Egley (1981), pp. 43 et passim.

in the group. Some other referral agents suggested that they would be curious to try clients with marginal English skills in the group to see how they did.

(b) Sobriety

While wife-battering and drinking problems are not bound together in any simple causative fashion, it might be hypothesized that the combination makes it more likely that the couple will come to the attention of the justice system and, for various other intervening reasons, increase the odds that the batterer will find himself before the court. Table 2 (page 22), listing cases before one referring judge over a six month period, suggests that at least one-third of the cases that came to some disposition involved men who appear to have a drinking problem. The conditions placed on accused men awaiting trial also often suggest a problem with alcohol (e.g., no drinking as a bail provision or as a condition of access to children). A number of otherwise apparently suitable clients were ordered to attend alcohol treatment programs rather than the assaultive males therapy group.

In apparently disqualifying some clients because they were poor risks for sobriety, the courts may not be taking full advantage of the therapy group option. The courts could mandate sequential (or even concurrent) attendance in an alcohol abuse program and the batterer's therapy group. Arguably, the skills built up in an alcohol abuse program would translate into the other therapy. One possible hypothesis for why the courts aren't routinely doing this is the length of probation that would be implied: it would certainly push terms of probation to nine or twelve months from a much lower average at present in the caseload we have examined (and see discussion on length of sentence below).

When recruitment was reactivated following the conclusion of the pilot project, the therapists reworded the referral criteria to deal explicitly with this point. The new criterion reads:

- o The man should not have a chronic alcohol or drug abuse problem but if such a problem exists the man would be an appropriate referral if initially or concurrently with this program he participates in a substance abuse program.

(c) Willingness to Participate

The table on recruitment in the Client Profile (Appendix A) shows that only three clients were refused because they showed extreme denial, and in each case that decision was affected by another problem such as poor English. In fact, for intake purposes, what needs to be established is not that the person is willing so much as apparently reasonable; sociopaths, psychotics and extremely disturbed individuals who could not work within a group or involve themselves in a learning milieu need to be (and have been) screened out.

Therapist experience has been that, where there is leverage provided by court sanctions, initial client negativity can be successfully overcome (and see section on Attendance and Completion below). They have clarified the referral criteria accordingly to emphasize this point:

- o The man who denies, minimizes or appears unmotivated may be referred to the program.
- o The man must not be mentally ill.

B. Actual Recruitment

Through Judges - Post Conviction

Table 1 shows the number of men referred by each of the participating judges in the Vancouver Family Court and the number of these that actually entered the therapy groups. The table seems to show varying patterns of referral, but this is largely the result of partial specialization in this court. One judge takes the bulk of these criminal code cases (and the rest handle overflow) for six months, and then this responsibility is rotated on to another

judge. In 1982, for various reasons which are incidental here, one judge ('D'in Table 1) took a double rotation with primary responsibility for "domestic cases" (including sibling-parent and other intrafamilial assaults). That 50% of judicial referrals came from him is therefore to be expected. In 1983, the rotation passed to another judge of the Family division (Judge 'B', Table 1) but by this time no more referrals were being accepted.

Table 1. Judges' Referrals

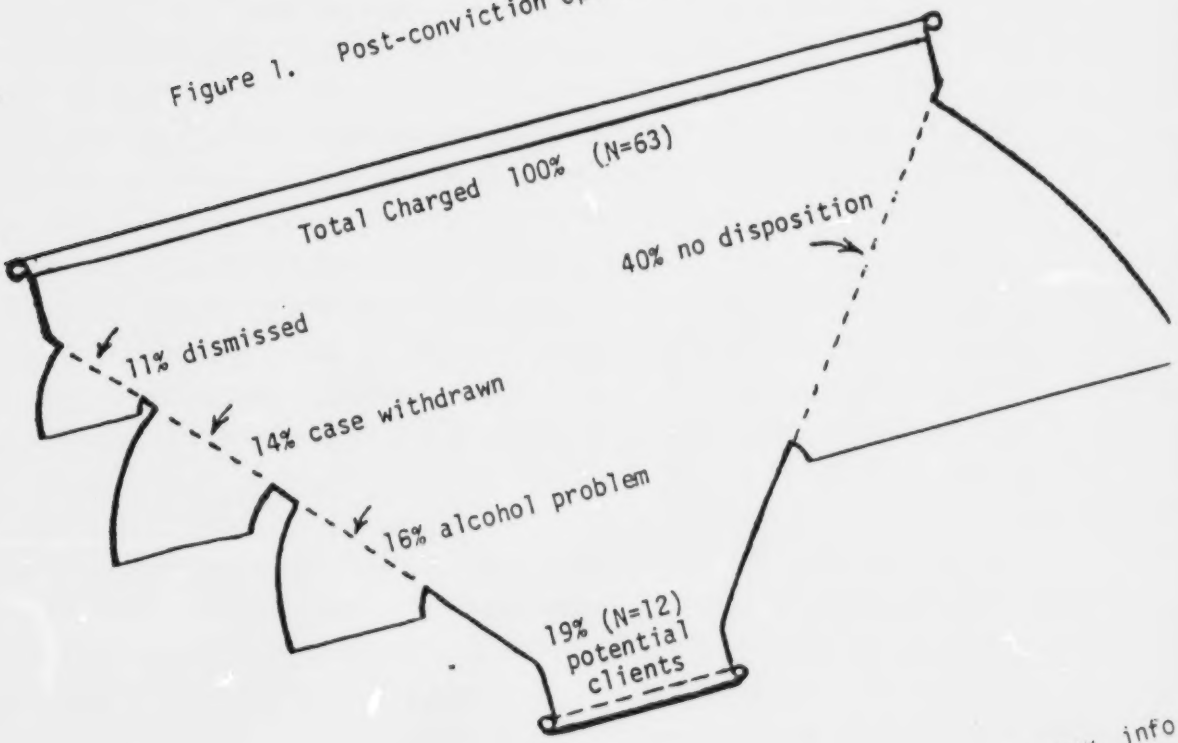
Source	Entered Group	Refused, No Show	Total
Family Court Judge			
A	1	3	4
B	1	-	1
C	3	1	4
D	7	2	9
(Voluntary)	15	1	16
Total	27	7	34

Table 1 also shows that recruitment post-conviction represented only slightly more than half the referrals and a minority of those who eventually entered the groups (12 of 27 or 44%). The entry funnel (Table 2 and Figure 1), calculated from Judge 'D's caseload (as it is the most representative), reinforces the observations that recruitment only post-conviction is selflimiting, especially if we assume that few men whose cases are dismissed or where charges are withdrawn will be motivated to enter the program voluntarily. Within the six month period represented, a fair proportion - in this instance 40% - of cases are still in process and thus entry into the program can be long delayed.

Table 2. Post-Conviction Option Entry Funnel
(from Judge 'D's caseload - first six months from announcement of program)
(February 10, 1982 - August 11, 1982)

Charge	Total	No Disposition	Withdrawn	Dismissed	Alcohol or other 'Disqualifier'	Possible Client
Threat	13	2	3	3	3	2
Possession dangerous weapon	1	0	0	1	0	0
Mischief	5	2	1	0	1	1
Common assault	27	17	1	0	2	7
Threat and Common Assault	6	1	1	2	1	1
Common Assault multiple charges	5	2	1	0	2	0
Assault causing bodily harm	6	1	2	1	1	1
Total	63	26	9	7	10	12

Figure 1. Post-conviction Option Entry Funnel



Of the 12 cases that seem, on the basis of the cursory info
presented here, to be possible candidates, two actually were refer
entered the groups. The project leaders sponsored a graduate student
parallel analysis, combing court files for the whole recruitment pe
February 1982 through January 1983. That study's results confirm ou
here. Of 170 cases identified, 16% still had no disposition, 24
withdrawn, 17% dismissed, and 7% had negotiated dispositions (such
bond). This left 36% (61 cases) that might have been referred, ig
tion criteria that would disqualify some. Of these, 18 were re
entered the program. Discussion of the possible reasons why some
were not referred is continued in the following section.

Through Family Court Counsellors

Family court counsellors are involved in recruitment of two kinds - court-mandated and court-referred (voluntary). In the first case, the family court counsellor may be invited by the court to speak to sentence or to prepare a pre-sentence report and thus may suggest to the court post-conviction referral to the program. The client would then likely remain on the family court counsellor's case load in his or her capacity as the man's probation officer.* In the other case, the family court counsellor might refer clients, not then before the court for assault, who felt (or could be convinced) that they needed help to control their violence. As the program was envisaged, these two referred roles make the family court counsellors pivotal to the success of recruitment.

In the early months of the project, two worrisome concerns were raised about the referral patterns: an apparently uneven referral rate among family court counsellors (and possible boycott of the project by some); and, within the key area of Vancouver proper, an apparent disjunction between referrals from the East and West offices.**

The second issue can be dispensed with fairly briefly. There were a number of hypotheses to explain the lower rate of referral of West Office clients (it appeared initially that no clients were being recruited through this office). Among these hypotheses the two major ones were: (a) that staff in this office did not favour the project , and (b) that their case load was significantly different (and specifically that residents from Vancouver's west

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* Ideally, the court would adjourn the trial for a few days prior to pronouncing sentence, and an intake assessment would be done so that therapists could determine the admissability of the man. That way there would be no problem of an unsuitable client "ordered" to attend, a situation which then calls for the probation officer to request the court to amend the terms of probation.

** In 1982, family court counsellor services in Vancouver were reorganized (amalgmated) into only two offices - East (from the Burnaby boudary to Main Street) and West (from Main Street to the University Endowment Lands). Because it turned out the case load was considerably heavier on the east side, the dividing boundary was later moved east to Fraser Street.

side, being somewhat wealthier on average than those from the east side, had resources which kept them out of family court or converted issues of wife assault into issues about custody, access and division of property).

It would seem that there is a grain of truth in both these hypotheses. But only a grain. Certainly, in the project's early days, West Office staff were not as involved. In a few cases, this was because of reservations about the project (about which more below). In other cases, this was simply because the office experienced unusual staff turnover and the use of various program resources was inhibited by this. Neither of these points represents a continuing barrier to involvement with the program, and there is apparently now some pent-up "demand" for the therapy group program within this office.

Differences in client characteristics between the two offices (and among family court counsellors serving different localities) cannot be substantiated without detailed study of case files but remains a plausible hypothesis. It will take time to confirm whether certain areas recruit proportionately more clients through the formal court process or on a voluntary basis.

To return to the first issue of concern - the apparently uneven referral rates among family court counsellors - again, a number of hypotheses have been put forward to explain this. These include parallels to the ones above, i.e. (a) some family court counsellors were suspicious of or hostile to the project, and (b) the case loads of the counsellors differ significantly. Among other hypotheses, we will also discuss (c) that female family court counsellors have been generally more receptive to the project than male counsellors, (d) that family court counsellors differ considerably in their view of the type or range of clients who might benefit from a batterers' therapy group and in their feelings as to how referrals are to be made, and (e) that the referral process itself is cumbersome and inhibits recruitment. To choose among these hypotheses would require many more and more detailed interviews with referral agents than we undertook. Barring additional research, we can only set out some impressions that are suggestive.

There is clear evidence in the chronology (Appendix B) that some family counsellors started off with reservations about the value of a therapy group for batterers. The nature of those reservations has been hard to uncover, but a number have been suggested. One was a feeling that no short-term intervention could deal with a long history of violence. A second was suspicion of a project bringing in "high-priced help", or experts promising a "quick fix". Both of these sorts of reservations appear to have been allayed successfully. Family court counsellors reported seeing evidence from their own referrals of project utility. And the general responsiveness of project leaders dissolved some of the other suspicions (and see the sections on Promotion and Liaison). Because of staff turnover and case transfers among case loads, many, if not all of the family court counsellors in Vancouver had first-hand contact supervising a client in the project. So even counsellors who had not yet referred themselves were drawn into the process. Of significance is the fact that everyone interviewed was now fully prepared to refer clients to the program.

It is true that case loads differ significantly among family court counsellors (as among the judges) and also change over time. In East Office, for example, there is considerable variance - a handfull of cases on some workers' case loads, as many as 20-25 (or 40% of case load) for others. The number of referrals is not simply proportional to the number of cases handled but this does explain some of the difference.

More adventurous is the hypothesis that the program has been generally better received by female than by male referral agents. There is limited support for this notion, and definitive findings would require difficult research. Some female family court counsellors said that it is possible that women would be more aware of and more sensitive to the issue of wife assault. As attendance at training seminars and workshops in this area is voluntary, female workers may have made a greater effort to attend and so have become further sensitized. On the other hand, no male worker agreed with this view. Rather, several noted a long personal history of concern in this area, interest in development of resources and referrals to earlier therapy programs.

Impressionistically, the range of views does not vary clearly by sex, although there likely are different mean thresholds of sensitivity to the issue and a difference on average about what is judged as a serious case. One hypothesis suggested in this regard was that female counsellors tend to see the woman as a victim, the assaultive male clearly as the offender, while male counsellors tend to focus on a "dysfunctional family" dynamic. For our purposes here, however, such differences in perception are not ones which would make or break the recruitment effort.

The referral process is set out in Appendix F. It involves simply completing a form and sending it to the intake worker at Vancouver Family Court who sets up the intake interview with the therapists. Some referral agents seem to prefer making direct contact with the therapists rather than sending a form into some processing "machine". It appears that some have telephoned the group leaders to talk over a client and see if he seemed suitable for referral (and see the discussion following). That said, no one argued that referral to this program was any more difficult than to another.

The last of the hypotheses is more general than the others. It is that family court counsellors (and other referral agents such as the judges) differ considerably in their views of the range of clients who are suitable for referral and also in terms of their role in the referral process. As discussed above, descriptions of the program list entry criteria - ability to speak English, be able to complete an anger diary, willingness to participate in the therapy group, and attend in a sober condition. These criteria admit of some judgement: What is enough English? How willing must a client be? If an assaultive man has an alcohol or drug-dependency problem, do you deal with this first or in tandem with the therapy group program?

Without repeating earlier discussion, the issue raised is the view that a referral agent takes of his or her role in recruitment. While we cannot determine how many fall into each of the categories, it is clear that two tendencies are evident. The first is that since there is a screening process, it is up to

the therapists to make the selection and up to the referral agent only to give them a reasonable selection to choose amongst. The second is that any competent referral agent soon gets a good idea of who is a suitable client and who is not, and thus should not waste anyone's time, the client included, in referring unsuitable types. While these are only differences in style or emphasis, they are important to the extent that other ideas about suitability intervene.

The range of suitable clients is not defined simply by the stated entry criteria (and remember that they have subsequently been further clarified), but also by another set of questions about which there has been no process of consensus-building among referral agents. The project leaders have explored their own assumptions, but judges and family court counsellors seem to differ widely among themselves on key issues. For example, is the therapy group for the first-time batterer or one with a long and escalating history of assault? The man who claims a general cultural acceptance for his actions or the one who locates his trouble in this particular relationship? And is the man who has been in the group and then batters again unsuitable or a more suitable referral than ever?

By way of illustration, there is no common understanding on the question of the range of offences which define the clients to be recruited. If a man has assaulted his wife and seems likely to do so again (or, to take a more straightforward case, has done so before), then everyone agrees he is to be considered. Threatening and mischief charges (about 30% of the total in Table 2, above) are more difficult because the pattern can be variously interpreted. A number of referral agents argue that charges of threatening are often merely vexatious, an attempt by the wife to enlist the justice system in a private quarrel. Many threats are not regarded as serious by these referral agents who note that such charges are particularly likely to be withdrawn or dismissed. Even serious threats are qualitatively different from actual physical assaults, and some referral agents question whether putting a man convicted of threaten-

ing in a batterers' group may not confuse everyone.* Where a current charge of threatening is merely one incident in a history which includes assault, however, then there is greater consensus about the client's suitability.

Similar arguments are made about men charged with mischief. That is, some referral agents may take the position that, if a man takes his aggression out on his wife's property, he may be quite frightening to her but he may not be a client for a batterers' group. To this way of thinking, even if he threatens his wife by so unpleasant a deed as poisoning her goldfish, isn't he demonstrating that he can redirect his violence from her person?

Such points of view as the latter appear to us to contradict the theoretical underpinnings of the therapy group (which teaches that assault can have physical, sexual and psychological elements), but they are not in opposition to any explicit referral guidelines. Our sense is very much that differences in opinion on these matters have resulted in a rather heterogenous or inconsistent referral policy from each of the referral sources. This is hardly a problem for clients who gain entry into the program, but it may be of concern that categories of men who could benefit are not getting into the intake process.

Summary

In the planning stages, a reading of court personnel reaction as to the need for a resource like the proposed therapy groups for assaultive males (sort of "agreement in principle") combined with a quick survey of the cases coming to disposition in the Vancouver Family Court suggested that the groups would fill up quickly. Therapist concern was that a problem might arise if referrals had to be refused just as judges and family court counsellors were getting used to using this resource.

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* Therapist experience contradicts this view. Some clients admit to nothing more violent in their relationship than threats. However, they can be shown enough commonalities with the experience of admitted batterers to participate fully in the group.

The decision to restrict the program to post-conviction referrals altered that picture considerably, however. Various other processes that introduced hesitations in the early months of the referral process cut recruitment to less than a proverbial trickle. The two major changes aimed at increasing it again (expansion to other court areas and voluntary referrals) along with further project promotion (and see the section following) overcame some of these recruitment problems. However, the recruitment base remains relatively narrow and it would require further systematic internal promotion to reach its potential.

Uncertainty over refunding the pilot project cut off recuitment in early 1983. This fact (although in a different way) realized the therapists' fear that referral agents would have to be turned down just as they began to take to the program in earnest.

Overall, the program seems to have achieved a favourable impression among judges and family court counsellors, having overcome various early reservations by proving to be of assistance as a resource for a wide variety of clients. Questions, particularly about which types of clients are the most suitable recruits, remain unclear. All in all, the process outlined here can be regarded as one of "normal" program development.

C. Promotion

Given that recruitment to the project is meant to be mainly through referral, promotion falls into two categories: (a) direct, that is to referral agents, and (b) indirect, publicity that reaches other publics, including the general public through various mass media.

The chronology and clippings in the appendices reflect the fact that there is considerable media interest in therapy groups for batterers. One of the therapists testified before the Commons Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs and the project was mentioned in Hansard. In a general way,

the media picked up on these hearings, the Committee report, and the uproar over remarks in the House in response to local M.P. Margaret Mitchell's questions.* The parallel all-party committee hearings in Ontario kept the issue before the public on several occasions. All in all, 1982 was a banner year for general publicity on the problems of wife battering. The therapy group project, with articulate and media-experienced leadership, was a very desirable item, especially for the broadcast media, and was picked up by communities well outside the local area.

A number of self-referrals are to be expected with such publicity and, in talk show formats for example, may come forward more or less publicly. Even as tenuous a link as that of being identified as "evaluator" of the program brings inquiries. We can recall perhaps half a dozen rather desperate telephone callers that we referred to group leaders.

The group leaders also took part in a number of seminars, workshops and lectures - usually on the general topic of wife assault, but always touching on the project as well. These were not direct promotional efforts either, although they might result in self-referrals or develop potential referral sources.

From the project leaders' perspective, however, most crucial were internal promotional efforts aimed at developing the recruitment base. The chronology makes clear that a sucession of meetings was required to float the idea, mobilize support, and then deal with obstacles as these become evident and work through resistance or problems. This is a particularly difficult process with a group like family court counsellors because the exigencies of their work can take individuals away from the office at anytime. Thus some workers recall several contacts with the project leaders and plenty of opportunity to discuss the project while others remained more or less unaware of the project until circulars were sent around.

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* See Appendix J

Another route which must be taken, therefore, is written promotional material. Appendix E contains the February 10, 1982 letter and attachments, which marked the real start of the program as far as many family court counsellors were concerned. On April 13th, a reminder letter went out (Appendix G) explaining the expanded recruitment base. Also in April, a feature article appeared in the B.C. Corrections Newsletter* (and a further small correction in a subsequent issue).

The major promotional initiative taken by the group leaders was publication of a program brochure (again see Appendix C) which was sent out to family court offices and also to a wide range of potential referral sources including transition houses**, many doctors, Ministry of Human Resources offices, etc. One mail-out of brochures was done. No follow-up was undertaken during the pilot period because the project went into fiscal limbo.

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* See Appendix H

** See Appendix N

PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS

This report is based on discussions with individuals - including referral agents, clients, spouses and the therapists themselves - about their perceptions of the men's therapy group program. Because of therapeutic considerations, we had no direct access to the groups and could not observe (or participate in) the meeting sessions. In this section, therefore, our discussion is restricted to certain issues which influence the conduct of the therapy rather than with techniques, exercises or aspects of group process. The therapists express the intention to write up their procedures and clinical observations; we urge them to do so.

Staggered Membership

One of the significant changes made after the therapy group began was the introduction of staggered membership. That is, roughly half-way through the group sessions, a set of new members enter.* The primary reason for adoption of this system was to shorten the waiting time for clients from the time of intake to group entry. Long waiting times tend to erode the man's motivation (and thus is a particular problem for voluntary clients) and also can present difficulties for the referral agents. Even at that, starting a new cohort every eight weeks means there is a waiting period that averages a month after intake. This is arguably longer than desirable and, to solve this problem, the therapists would like to be able to run two groups concurrently were intake volumes (and resources) to permit. There is some sense that the project was about to generate this volume of referrals when recruitment had to be terminated.

Staggered membership has a second advantage that has already been touched on. Although one might think that it would set the group progress back while new persons are introduced and learn the ropes, in fact any such such hiatus is

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* If there were perfect or near-perfect attendance, a set of numbers would have just completed. See Attendance and Completion discussion next.

apparently more than made good by placing the old members in the new role of "veterans". As such, they may make additional progress through having to teach their new insights to others and, in the process, are given an opportunity to see clearly how far they themselves have come. The newcomers to the group also benefit by having "models" in addition to the therapists (and especially since these are men who are only just a step or two further ahead - a situation that seems to facilitate learning).

Any possible disruption is minimized if the men are given some orientation before formal entry. The therapists propose to experiment with a two-session orientation, tied to the intake process. At the same time, they want to avoid giving the man a sense that he is starting in what is essentially individual therapy when he should be in preparation for group participation.

Attendance and Completion

The program is designed to run for 16 weekly sessions. Attendance for the required time might be held to constitute formal adherance to the terms of probation for a court-ordered client (although that has not had to be tested in court). Completion, however, is ideally a joint decision of the therapists and the client. The therapists can request a man to continue to attend a number of additional sessions to consolidate his therapeutic progress.

Table 3, a six-month attendance record, shows that unbroken strings of attendances all the way to completion are the exception rather than the rule. Thus, many clients will overlap not merely two eight-week blocks but complete early in a third. Because of illness or work schedule conflicts (where the client has consulted with group leaders and, if necessary, his probation officer), legitimate absences must be accommodated and made up at the end. Note, as well, that clients can be denied admittance if they are not in a fit state or refuse to complete an anger diary.

Table 3. Six-month Attendance Record
(Groups 4 and 5)

	DECEMBER 1982				JANUARY 1983				FEBRUARY 1983				MARCH 1983					APRIL 1983				MAY 1983			
CLIENT	2	8	15	29	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	
1	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	DO												11
+2	R-A	A	P	Med.	Med.	DO			P	P	P	Med.	P	P	P	P	P	P	R-A	A	A	DO			10
3	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	C							17
+4	A	DO																							0
5	P	DO																							1
+6	P	P	P	P	W	P	W	W	P	P	P	P	P	W	P	P	P	P	P	C					16
7	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	DO												10
8X	P	A	P	A	A	DO					P	A	A	DO											3
+9X	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	C														11
10	A	A	DO																						0
11X	Med.	P	P	P	P	P	Med.	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	C							17
12								P	A	A	DO														1
13								P	P	P	P	P	W	P	P	A	A	DO							7
+14								A	P	P	P	Med.	P	W	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	13
+15								P	P	P	P	P	W	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	W	W	P	P	14
16								P	A	P	A	P	P	A	A	DO									4
17								P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	C	17
+18								A	P	A	A	DO													1
19								P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	DO							8
Total	7	5	8	5	5	5	4	11	2	13	10	8	8	8	9	7	7	6	5	4	2	2	3	3	

Average attendance 4th group = 5.6 5th group = 6.9

Key:
+ - court-ordered client
X - carry-over from group 3
P - present
A - absent
C - completed
Med. - absent/medical excuse
W - absent/work schedule conflict
R-A - refused, attended drunk
DO - drop-out

The number of men in attendance trails off gradually over a block of sessions, but this is exaggerated in Table 3 because the fifth group was the last under the pilot project and intake, which would have added a new client cohort half-way into that group, was suspended pending decision on further funding. In fact, another group was subsequently authorized, but this new intake is not charted because it falls outside our perview.

Table 4 provides some analysis of this attendance record. The calculations are done for all nineteen clients accepted into these two groups, and, separately, excluding 'no-shows' (men who backed out before the groups started) and early drop-outs (men who attended only one session and decided the group was not for them). The numbers, though too small to be definitive, are suggestive. First of all, the attendance rate (even considering the point about absences raised just above) is high and shows that there is a core of men who

can provide continuity and a sense of group identity. In fact, it would seem that even the bulk of persons who drop out do not have particularly erratic attendance. The rule that a man who, without legitimate excuse, misses two meetings in a row, is considered to be out of the group, seems to keep attendance up.

Table 4. Attendance Record Analysis
Six-month Period December 1982 - May 1983
(Groups 4 and 5)

	Court-directed Clients (N=7)	Court-referred Voluntary Clients (N=4)	Other Voluntary Referrals (N=8)	Overall
Average number of sessions attended	9.3	11.3	7.3	8.5
Attendance rate*	74%	90%	82%	81%
Drop-out rate (overall)	43%	50%	88%	63%

Reanalysis, Omitting Men Who Dropped Out After Single Session

Net average number of sessions attended	12.8	14.3	8.3	11.2
Net attendance rate	79%	90%	85%	84%
Drop-out rate (net)	20%	33%	83%	50%

* Attendance rate is calculated based only on sessions prior to termination through drop-out or completion.

The other side of this picture is that the "no show" and drop-out rates are also high. One client in four either never showed up or dropped out after only one session. If that experience proves generally true, intake should be adjusted to keep groups in their optimal size range (and see discussion in the section following).

For the two groups charted in Table 3, the drop-out rate stood at 50%. However, reinforcing the impressions of the therapists, there is a major difference in the drop-out rates for voluntary referrals compared with men who came into the program through the justice system. Most of the voluntary referrals dropped out while a comparable proportion of clients who were court-directed or voluntary court-referred completed the program.

Table 5. Completion Record

Client	Dropped Out	Completed	Total
Court-directed	3	10	13
Court-referred voluntary	2	3	5
Other voluntary referral	6	3	9
TOTAL	11	16	27

Table 5 summarizes the completion record for all five groups and underscores the same point. The completion rate for the court-directed men was 77%, for court-referred voluntary 60%, but for other voluntary referrals only 33%. The success with court-directed clients likely reflects the additional leverage available through the threat to "breach" drop-outs and also, possible, a greater reluctance on the therapists' part to abandon them.

Group Size

The project planned to run groups consisting of between six and ten men. Egley (1981) provides some background that justifies this size range.

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* That is, through their probation officer, initiate court action against the men for breach of their conditions of probation.

> Asch showed that three members must agree to exert the most effective levels of group pressure on a disagreeing group member (1962).* Castore showed a significant change in group interaction in a group of nine or more members (1962). Yalom states that a group size of eight may be optimal and five to be minimal for therapeutic groups (1975). Prediction of participation by men who batter is far from perfect.... Thus it seems wise to limit groups to the range of five to ten members at the first meeting. Starting with less than five means the group will probably fail to achieve involvement or effective group pressure. This in turn will accelerate loss of members .... Near termination it may be possible to function with four or five members. The upper limit of ten allows two members to drop out to reach optimal group size. (p. 51)

The group leaders would not want to be as categorical as Egley. As Table 3 shows, effective group size has fluctuated considerably. The fourth group meetings ranged from 4 to 8 members and averaged 5.6. The fifth group meetings ranged from 2 to 13 and averaged 6.9. This range of sizes was considered quite workable by the therapists. The larger meetings in group five did require a more structured approach, taking care that everyone around the circle contributed during "check-in" and guiding discussions more carefully so that no one monopolized the time. The therapists found they have to be clearer about the significance of exercises and points brought out in discussion and more directive in a larger group. In general, however, they report that this need to structure the meetings has helped further focus the material and the range in group size (except at the tail end of group five) has not been such as to fundamentally alter group dynamics.

Mandated Therapy

Arguably, the most controversial aspect of this project is the notion that men can be required to participate in therapy as a condition of their sentence of probation. Sgroi (1982), writing about the comparable problem of dealing with child sexual abuse offenders, summarizes this controversy as follows:

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* The therapists note that this consideration as to the lower size bound for groups is not so important in this case because, aside from peer pressure, there is a group leader who sets normative standards. Therapeutic benefits can be generated even in a group of two clients.

> Current philosophies of the helping professions deliberately exclude the involuntary client. Those who provide help for deeply troubled people usually eschew outreach. Instead we require that an individual must first recognize that he has a problem, then decide that he wants help for a problem, next, identify an appropriate help source, and finally present himself at the appropriate place at the appropriate time to receive the help. Needless to say, most (offenders) do not fit this description....
>
> Few professionals today have developed skills to deal with involuntary clients. Such individuals are difficult to treat and are inclined to deny their need for treatment.... We are the inheritors of a fifty-to-sixty-year time lag in the development and refinement of skills for working with involuntary clients. Little attention has been paid to these skills since the 1920s. (pp. 2-3)

The justice system, too, does not like to confuse punishment and treatment.* Thus, court-referred clients retain some voluntary discretion even in a situation where there is admitted pressure for compliance. The program does not regard as acceptable any man who expresses extreme denial or is obdurate in refusing to participate. This level of "voluntariness" may not be qualitatively different from those of other clients, many of whom may join the group only under various pressures. For example, the following is an analysis of reasons for self-referral to an emergency shelter-affiliated men's group:

> Among over 100 men who made their initial contact by calling an anonymous phone line for Men in Violent Relationships, 10% indicated that they were worried because they noticed they were acting or thinking of acting violently. About 25% called because of pending court action or a court order.... About 60% called because their wife had left or threatened to leave. A few only expressed curiosity regarding the program. Of these motivations the wife's departure and court action affect sufficiently many men to suggest recruiting strategies. (Egley, 1981; p.26)

The discussion above on attendance and completion shows that court-referred clients seem to be more likely to stick with the program to completion. Their attendance record is broadly comparable to voluntary

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* Altnough of course the very word "penitentiary" refers to a theory that withdrawal of freedom (and a hard regime that often included forced labour and enforced silence) gave an offender the time to think over his crimes and rehabilitate himself.

clients. The therapists feel that they become just as engaged in the process. While the question of outcomes must remain unanswered at present, the argument for mandated therapy for certain categories of offenders seems compelling.

> The key to working effectively with involuntary clients who exhibit disorders of power is authoritative intervention.... A combined authoritative and supportive approach to clients...seems to be most effective. Although great initial resistance may be shown, most clients respond well (sometimes with relief) to "being told what to do", especially when the approach is firm, consistent, nonpunitive and generally upbeat, with emphasis on the positive aspects of the situation. Until helping professionals are willing to join forces with professionals with statutory authority, little effective treatment...is likely to occur. It is manifestly unrealistic to suppose that individuals who depend upon abuse of power...are likely to respond to non-authoritative intervention. (Sgroi, 1982; pp. 4-5, emphasis added)

Length of Sentence

If mandated therapy is a useful option in crimes like wife assault, it is logical that sentences be for a period that encompasses the typical waiting period, the course of group meetings, plus a little over for possible make-up sessions. We have already noted above that this implies a probationary period of at least six months and, where alcohol or drug counselling may also be indicated, nine to twelve months. Given various recent expressions of public concern that wife assault seems to have been taken much too lightly by the justice system and that the courts should begin to express public condemnation for such assault more clearly, lengthening the average sentence (and see Bohn and Fralic, 1982; Byles, 1982)* and increasing the supervision of the men are positive responses.

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* See Appendix J

SPOUSES' PERCEPTIONS OF THERAPY GROUPS FOR MEN

The Interviewees

Individual interviews were attempted with the wives of group clients to obtain their general perceptions of the idea of the therapy groups, their expectations of the therapy and their opinion of the role of the police and the courts in handling their particular case.

Twenty-five women were identified for interview. Of these, there were fifteen completed interviews; five women had moved and could not be traced: another four were not contacted because their husbands withdrew from the groups; and one women refused to be interviewed. Nine of those interviewed were still living with their spouse and nine of the fifteen husbands had been referred to therapy by the courts. These data are shown below.

Table 6. Domestic Arrangements of Interviewees (at the time of interview)

	Living With Spouse	Separated From Spouse	Total
Husband Court Referred to Therapy	5	4	9
Husband Self-Referred to Therapy	4	2	6
TOTAL	9	6	15

The women ranged in age from 24 to 63 years of age. In summary:

Table 7. Age of Interviewees

Age	Number
Under 25	1
25 - 30	5
31 - 40	6
41 - 50	1
Over 50	2

Partners' Expectations of Therapy Groups

Respondents were questioned about their knowledge of the groups and their expectations of the impact of the therapy sessions on the behaviour of the men who had assaulted them.

Only two of the fifteen respondents (both currently living with their partners) had a reasonably good idea of the content, duration and purpose of the groups. Five respondents knew the men were attending a regular group session of some kind, eight women had no knowledge of the group until the research contact was made.

Just over half the women interviewed (8) expressed strong doubts about the effectiveness of the groups. From their perception it was unlikely that violent behaviour that had "developed over a lifetime would be changed in 6 months". They questioned whether the real problems in the men's makeup could be dealt with. One respondent thought the group could do more harm than good by reinforcing the husband's view of himself as aggressive. These respondents, however, were prepared to keep an open mind on the group's impact. Three of the women were separated at the time of the interview and commented on the group in a somewhat detached way since they expressed their resolve to remain apart from their assailants. Two women thought the groups were really only worthwhile if the partners were together or wanted to reconcile.

Two women not living with their partners were firmly negative about the groups. Both suggested that membership in the group merely provided a palatable alternative to jail which the men had chosen without any real commitment or motivation to change their behaviour.

On a more positive note five women (four of whom remained with their husbands following the assault) thought the group could achieve significant change. Four of these five were attached to men who were self-referrals. At least two said they had noticed a real change in their husbands, commenting on them being "more considerate", "much improved", and "more controlled". Whether such change was a result of the therapy (unlikely so early into the treatment) or the sobering realisation that their marriage was on the verge of break-up is a matter for conjecture at this stage.

In general, the wives of men who had voluntarily referred themselves to the groups were more likely to perceive the experience as "therapy" or "treatment" and, not unexpectedly given their investment in continuing their relationships, viewed the groups with some (guarded) optimisim. Women of men who had been referred by the courts (9 in all) were more likely to talk about the group as a diversion from the men's just deserts. (In one interview the superficial understanding of the groups' process and purpose was expressed as a "session where men sit around and exchange views on what bitches their wives are". The five women of court referred men who were still living with their husbands were least optimistic about the groups' ability to effect behavioural change. The interviewees gave the impression to the interviewer that some men were being purposely secretive and non-informative as a way of exerting control.*

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* This assertion speaks to the desirability of therapists maintaining liaison with spouses, especially in cases where the couples are still living together (and see discussion on liaison below). A first reaction from the therapists is that most of the men are closed generally and not normally very communicative with their spouses. Clearly, however, the issue deserves more attention.

Perception of Police and Court Interventions

Respondents were asked to appraise how the outcome of police and court intervention measured up to their expectations. In nine of the fifteen cases reviewed, the police were involved in the most recent incident of violence. The police had been called to the home in six cases (once by a neighbour and, in five instances, by the wife); in three cases the wife had gone to the police. Seven of the respondents who had had police contact were very satisfied with the handling of their problems. Respondents felt that the police explained the law quite clearly. One wife expected the police to automatically lay charges and expressed concern that she had to undertake this responsibility.

Nine of the 15 cases came to the attention of the courts. In four cases the women were satisfied with the court's dispositon. Three of these were particularly enthusiastic about the therapy groups and the court sanction on attendance by the husbands. Three other interviewees thought the court had been too severe.

By contrast, criticism from one respondent likened probation and referral to therapy as "a slap on the wrist" for a serious assault. Her disappointment with the court disposition also stemmed from her anger over having been encouraged by police to lay charges which she felt "had been a lot of trouble for nothing". She had expected and wanted a jail term for her husband.

It is clear from the interviews that there had been a fairly persistent history of violence, verbal abuse and threats in ten of the 15 cases. In most of these the police had attended before, and in most of these instances charges had been withdrawn or not pursued on a previous occasion. In four of the ten cases where previous assaults were reported to the interviewer, the women made it clear that their reason for presssing charges was to "teach him a lesson" or "impress upon him the seriousness of the situation" rather than to have him incarcerated. Presumably the mere attendance of the police, often called to

give legal and moral weight to the validity of the wife's right to be free from abuse, did not provide the deterrent expected. Thus resort to the courts. It is a comment, perhaps, on court procedure that three women in particular expressed great disappointment that not only did the hearing fail to in "teach the lesson" but also its apparant weakness was reinforced by a "namby-pamby" disposition, to wit, referral for counselling. In the other one of the four cases here referred to, the police intervention resulted in the husband's arrest and detention in jail. The wife reported that a lawyer had to be retained and the cost together with the arrest and subsequent referral to the groups held at "very inconvenient times" amounted to an inappropriately tough outcome.

Finally, three wives went out of their way in the interviews to express their pleasure with the groups as a court response. In one of these cases there had been no previous assault but a history of verbal abuse was reported. In all three, the women stated that the group's existence and promise of help affected their decision to remain with their husbands. Of the remaining twelve cases, ten respondents clearly indicated that the group's existence had not influenced their decision to continue the relationship or separate.

Conclusions

The one generally applicable finding from the interviews is the complaint that there was no formal notificaiton to the wives of the groups existence, and further and more importantly that the groups were conducted without any planned involvement of the partners, expecially where a continuing marital relationship was extant. In many cases the women's first knowledge of the groups came from the researcher contact.

Given the conflict situation between husband and wife, at the very least some form of written explantion of the groups's purpose, process and duration should be given to the women involved. In some instances the lack of informa-

tion obviously contributed to unrealistic expecations about what could be accomplished leading to disappointment when "overnight" behavioural change did not occur.

The non-involvement of women still living with their husbands could be detrimental to the success of the therapy in a number of respects. First, the women is in a position to (wittingly or unwittingly) undermine the progress made in the therapy sessions toward the men's realisation of the causes of their aggression. Secondly, without input from the spouse the therapist is reliant on his perception of the husband's candour and is bereft of any external validity check on the past history and daily events recorded in the "anger diary". Thirdly, it was the interviewer's assessment that the women interviewed were confused, misinformed and "alone" during the process. Some contact with the women could considerably help this. It is noteworthy that while the men were receiving help through the groups not one woman reported any increased access to available support services for them, or any information about their existence.

There appears to be a need to contact the women at the beginning of the therapy if only to attempt to engender realistic expecations in some and assuage others' fears about a male coalition of indifference to the woman as victim. Ideally, the information given should also touch on the usual responses or reactions that men experience in a therapy situation.

Three of the wives still living with their husbands expressed the desire for some limited joint counselling. If not as intensive and ongoing as in the men's groups, the women thought that a joint session during the course of treatment and again at its termination would be very useful. The interviewer impressions record that the women who expressed a need for counselling, either joint or wife oriented, were possibly wanting input into the process because they were concerned that they were being misrepresented by the men, or that the violent episodes were being described and explained as victim precipitated.

On the other hand, other women were happy to leave the behavioural change up to the men to effect. This extreme view of the situation too could be tempered with some contact between therapist and wives.

A final concern expressed by some women was that there should be some follow-up activity from the therapists. No doubt reinforcement of the positive responses to anger the men may learn in the groups would be desirable. (However, developmental funding contracts have not taken this need into account.)

In cataloguing all the concerns, however, it must be noted that the group leaders were very interested in the perceptions and felt needs of the spouses. While the resources committed to the project in its demonstration period did not permit much liaison with spouses, the therapists have taken a number of measures which are outlined in the section on Liaison and Follow-up next.

LIAISON AND FOLLOW-UP

The preceding chapter highlights one focus of concern for increased liaison and follow-up. The chronology suggests some others (touched on briefly under promotion). These activities are so important, however, that they merit a separate discussion.

Table 8 compiles two months of telephone contacts by one of the therapists to indicate what sort of liaison is involved. Aside from contacts with clients, which are generally fairly brief and deal with reminders, altered arrangements and the like, the calls are moderately long. Discussion and coordination with the principle referral agents, the family court counsellors and planning and liaison among the project staff themselves took up the bulk of this time. The residual category - "other" - includes some inquiries from spouses. Altogether, informal liaison of this sort seems to require the equivalent of about one day per month.

Table 8. Three-month Telephone Contact Record for One Therapist (January 12 - March 16, 1983)

Contact With	Number of Calls	Total in Minutes	Average Length of Call (Minutes)
Project staff	23	290	12
Clients	21	140	6
Referral agents	25	225	9
Project funder; researchers	9	135	15
Other (including wives)	9	75	10
Total	87	885	10

The chronology only hints at the other liaison activities. Face to face contact - meeting with referral agents (or potential referral agents), with liaising administrators from the funders, and project staff meetings (usually before or after group therapy sessions) to compare notes, plan approaches and evaluate them, etc. - must be budgetted at the equivalent of several days per month. To that should be added time for some contact with the battered women (and see next section).

A certain amount of correspondence also falls into this category (leaving aside promotional pamphlets). The two types emphasized are brief project reports to the funders and, much more significant, formal written follow-up to referral agents (see referral agent section below and discussion on documentation).

Liaison With Spouses

The pilot project began without a clear plan for contacting the spouses of group members. However, over its course, the therapists developed an informational letter to the client's wive (see Appendix K). It introduces the program (and its limitations) and mentions some of the techniques taught so that she will not worry that her husband is practicing some new form of psychological aggression against her that he's picked up in group. The letter also promises her some access to the therapists and, if possible, an interview with her is arranged. In fact, the idea that the therapists have talked to his spouse* and are privy to another view of the situation probably influences the way in which the man self-discloses in the group, as well as reassures the women that her perceptions are valued. The draft letter is accompanied by a pamphlet (Appendix L) outlining battered women's support services so that the woman can arrange for comparable support and not be left feeling that the offender is being paid more tender attention than she. The liaison efforts suggested by this draft letter seem central to the establishment of the program.

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* It appears that some men did not remember that it had been explained to them at intake that someone, in this instance a researcher, would be contacting their spouse. This is one of the issues which spurred the development of a participation agreement (see Appendix I-II) which clients read and sign as a commitment to the program and its rules.

By the end of the pilot project, therapists had resolved that, in addition to an initial interview (at the sole discretion of the women), they will ask for an interview at the end of the therapy group program and encourage periodic contact, especially if there is any recurrence of violence.

Liaison With Referral Agents

Almost by chance, judges may learn about the failure of their efforts. For example, a referral may prove unacceptable and the probation order require alteration, or a man may drop out of the therapy group and find himself before the judge again for breach of the terms of probation. A man may commit further violence, come to trial and at sentencing be revealed (by this standard at least) a program "failure". Liaison on a case by case basis is not deemed appropriate as judges have no executive role. Periodic assessments of the functioning of the program itself, however, might represent useful background information for the bench.

By contrast, the probation officer (or family court counsellor) has a clear interest in close liaison with the therapists regarding their clients. Consultation may begin around referral, would certainly be indicated by any problems during group sessions (e.g., non-attendance, disruptive behaviour, renewed violence, etc.) and probably should communicate good progress as well. On all these points, the court staff interviewed expressed approval of the therapists. They felt well-informed, able to keep in touch, and happy with the reports. Most contacts, as noted above, were by phone.

While this sort of informal liaison appears to be entirely satisfactory, no formal follow-up was in place during the pilot phase. There is support among the family court counsellors for a very brief written report to be sent when a man completes the program (or when he drops out) for inclusion in the man's dossier. Equally, a brief note of follow-up contact with the man might be appropriate information for the family court counsellor's files and further

enhance the commitment of the referral agents to the program. To this end, the therapists have now developed a group completion summary form (see Appendix Q) and a follow-up summary may also be indicated.

Follow-Up With Clients

Therapists encourage clients to make use of a follow-up session which can be arranged some months after completion. These can be either individual or couple counselling (at the request of the man and woman). Couple counselling might be useful for the man who is reunited with his victimized spouse, or equally, might be indicated in cases where the man is involved in a new relationship. If the lessons about redirecting anger and eliminating violence are being consolidated, it is appropriate to do conjoint counselling that deals with improving communication skills or direct the couple to additional resources.

Little reaction to the follow-up component is available as yet. It is clear, however, that what is provided in the project can be no more than a nod in the right direction. As noted above, the therapy group program cannot be expected to stand alone but is ideally part of a more comprehensive system response. In the area of follow-up particularly, there is a gap in that system.

One model for providing additional ongoing support for assaultive males is the selfhelp group (we referred above to Batterers Anonymous as an example). There is a pressing need for men who have just begun to control their violence to have available some sort of maintenance program in which they can participate for whatever length of time required. Self-help groups, with appropriate trained "sponsors" to make sure they stay on track, represent an inexpensive resource. Through these, "graduates" of the program can take the lessons of responsibility and self-control a step further than in the original therapy group by entering into a formal "buddy" (support and peer counselling) relationship with another batterer, by seizing the additional opportunities to teach new members and, depending on the self-help program format, by involving himself in recruitment, outreach or public education.

DOCUMENTATION AND EVALUATION

Documentation

It is almost a truism that service-oriented programs tend to have problems with documentation. Paperwork gets in the way when all energies seem required just to get on with service provision. In the case of this demonstration project, no information system was in place at the outset, nor did the contractual terms specify what information was to be made available to the funders in any summary report. The emphasis was very much on trying out the approach.

We do not argue for any elaborate record system as it would likely prove impossible to maintain. But experience gained in the pilot project suggests that a good deal of ground could be covered with the following:

(a) A background sheet giving some demographics of the man and his family, dates of the precipitating incident, arrest (if any), charge, court appearances, etc., some details of the charge, conditions of release, and disposition, indication of any record of previous assaults, and contact names, addresses and telephone numbers for the client, his place of work (if appropriate), his spouse, the referral agent, etc. All this information would be available through the probation officer in the case of court-mandated clients.

(b) An intake interview sheet noting responses, interviewer observations and a general assessment of whether the man is acceptable and what his starting position is.

(c) Any "tests" done at intake or early in the group therapy process - such as the Straus Conflict Tactics Scale, a standard personality inventory, an attitude scale covering sex roles or acceptance of violence, or the like.

(d) A record of attendance at meetings and the reasons for non-attendance.

(e) A record of contacts, correspondence and inquiries with the client, spouse, referral agent, etc. - noting the nature of the discussion.

(f) A case note on each session noting the general tenor of the man's interaction, any important disclosures or apparent movement, any disruptions or problems. If these are kept short, records for the 7 to 10 men that attend the average meeting could be updated immediately following each session.

(g) A copy of the "completion" form (and see section on liaison above) sent to the referral agent.

(h) A case note on any follow-up sessions (including a note on any reasons if these prove abortive. Referrals to other services should be noted along with any feedback on them.

The funder (we assume an ongoing relationship with the Corrections Branch) should require periodic brief summary reports that deal with such managerial concerns as the referral sources, the attendance records, liaison over drop-outs or other breachable actions, any referral problems and follow-up.

For internal planning and management purposes, other information may be useful - time billed, promotional efforts, etc. The above list, however, would provide baseline information by which the program could be evaluated.

Most of the elements of this suggested information system were developed by the therapists over the course of the pilot project as the need for each became clear. By the time new referrals were again being solicited, the following additions were in place:

- A new referral form (see Appendix F-ii) which provides background information. This, in combination with their intake guide, saves the group leaders the task of going back to the family court counsellors for basic information.

- The Straus Conflict Tactics Scale is routinely administered to the man, and, where appropriate, to his spouse. The therapists are also experimenting with a modified version of the Berberich assessment guide.

- A simple client progress summary form was developed to facilitate recording events or disclosures that arose in each session (and see Appendix P).

- A completion summary form (see Appendix Q) is now sent to the referral agent. In addition, quarterly reports are prepared for the project supervisor in Corrections which covers intake, referrals, therapist activities, etc.

Evaluation

Three sorts of evaluation are mentioned in the introduction to this report. The first is an assessment of the logic of the therapy group program and its operationalization or internal organization. Within the reasonable constraints, imposed by the therapists, that we not intrude as observers into the group process, it has been possible to address the general issue and some of its details (especially in the chapter on Program Considerations above). There is a growing understanding of how therapy groups for batterers should be structured.

The second type of evaluation involves an analysis of system impact. This includes such issues as (a) How is the service perceived by justice system personnel, other referral agents, the men themselves, their spouses, and perhaps even the general public? (b) To what extent and how appropriately is

the service used? and (c) What effects, both positive and negative, does the service have on the whole response system?

These are major research questions in their own right (a point emphasized in the discussion on the Promise of Therapy Groups) and this report, dealing with a pilot project in the process of continual development, tapped mostly initial impressions. The group leaders expended a lot of effort in clarifying perceptions of the project (which initially were mixed but have clearly become more positive),* working on the referral system, and promoting program benefits, especially within the justice system. These efforts and the first signs of their success are catalogued in this report (and, in addition to the various sections above, see the appendices on Client Profile and Project Chronology). In the longer term, more attention should be paid to shifts in charge policy, sentencing patterns, and other system changes that may be influenced by the availability of an active treatment resource.

The third sort of evaluation deals with outcomes, evidence of change (particularly long term) in the outlook and behaviour of the men treated.** If broad support for batterers' groups is to be maintained, this analysis must eventually be done. In that light, one of the program initiators proposed such an evaluation to project funders in July 1981. Because of its strict experimental design, the outcome evaluation was judged premature considering the program was still in a developmental stage. That proposal is worth reconsidering here, however, if only because it represents a good review of the problems involved in demonstrating program results.

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* Note that this report includes therapist perceptions, views of justice system referral agents and impressions from spouses. We did not include a full discussion of the views of the group members themselves although we started our research by holding interviews with clients. This gap in our presentation stems from the fact that we found too great a tendency for clients to be ingratiating. It would be more fruitful - although more difficult to arrange - to interview men after they complete the group (or seek them out if they drop out).

** Outcome studies and system impact assessments can both be subjected to yet another level of evaluation - cost/benefit analysis. Whether the cost of benefits accruing from the program is reasonable compared with that of alternative approaches or (a related political question) compared with alternative uses of available resources, represent distinct lines of inquiry entirely beyond the scope of this report.

> While some prima facie evidence suggests the viability of (men's support groups) (Ganley & Harris; 1978, Response, July 1981) no comprehensive evaluation of their successfulness in stopping wife assault has been performed. Furthermore, as some questions exist about the specific effectiveness of court-directed treatment for assaultive males, the proposed evaluation would be a first step towards assessing the efficacy of such treatment....
>
> The monitoring of group-clients and evaluation of group success in meeting its objectives must deal with the following issues:
>
> (a) to what extent would changes in attitudes, beliefs and communication skills reflect mere "image management" on the part of the clients and to what extent would it reflect a diminished probability for wife assault?
>
> (b) to what extent could cessation of violent behaviour in the treatment group be attributed to the therapeutic intervention?
>
> An "ideal" answer to these questions would require:
>
> 1. Random allocation of wife assaulters to an immediate treatment or a delayed treatment group, or allocation of assaulters matched for severity of prior assault to immediate vs. delayed treatment groups, with comparison of the post-treatment behaviour of the immediate treatment group to both its own pretreatment behaviour and the pre-arrest and post-arrest (but pretreatment) behaviour of the delayed treatment group (to control for effects of spontaneous remission due to arrest).
>
> 2. Valid measures of actual wife assault.
>
> As with many evaluations of treatment for "private" behaviours these ideals are unobtainable: system requirements may or may not allow random allocation to groups or the delay of treatment for a matched group. Also, perfectly valid measures of wife assault do not exist. (emphasis added)

Despite recognition of these difficulties, the therapists argued for such an experimental approach, using control groups - including men not deemed suitable for the program - matched for background and severity of assault. A measure of behavioural change was to be derived from interviews of clients and their spouses, conflict tactics scales administered to the man - and again, if possible, to his spouse as a validity check - before treatment and six months

after completion of the group, and a search of police reports or hospital records for any report of renewed violence over this period. Assessment of attitudes about men, women and the use of violence measured pre- and post-treatment using some combination of therapists' assessments, a sex role stereotype scale, etc. They further proposed to compare the results for men who entered the program post-conviction, on stay of proceedings or by diversion prior to any court action.

In fairness to this proposal, no one seems to have a better idea of how to produce a convincing demonstration. One very simple approach, which ignores any but behavioural indices as clouding the issue and does not try to find control groups, is structured as follows:

> Evaluation scales (Strauss conflict tactics scales modified for the purpose) could be administered to each spouse six times. Once pre-group, covering the period one year previous to the group. During the fifth week two copies will be administered, one referring to the year previous to the group and one referring to the first four weeks of the group. At five months, a copy will refer to the time after the fifth week of the group. Six month and one year post tests will refer to time since completion of the group. The duplicate survey during the fifth week is an attempt to establish a new index. The change of the man's fifth week report for the previous year away from his pre-group report for the previous year and toward his wife's pre-group report will be used as an index of Change in Denial.... The difference between the wife's fifth week report on pre-group violence and her pre-group report will index the impact of changing expectations or retrospection on self report. Comparison of wife and husband reports for the indexes covering the period of in-group behaviour can test validity of these concept reports. Post group surveys will measure the long-term impact of the group. Comparison of husband and wife reports, interpreted in the light of pre-group and during group reports, will provide a measure of denial. (Egley, 1981; pp. 117 - 118)

Despite its ingenuity, even a sequence of six pairs of test scores could be very difficult to interpret. If more violence is reported, is that bad? Or is it good, reflecting not more violence but less denial? Is convergence between the husband's and wife's reports good, reflecting decreased denial on

his part? Or it it bad, suggesting she is retrospectively altering her perceptions as her expectations shift? Even if both husband's and wife's reports converge and show decreased violence and increased use of non-violent conflict tactics, should they be believed or are they just showing "test savvy". Egley sets out the problem and then, quite understandably, metaphorically throws up his hands in a gesture of "if you are going to be that picky, nothing will ever convince you".

> The question of both partners denying violence makes it very difficult to provide evaluative data which others will accept.... (However,) if this technique can produce consistent patterns of results over the six survey cycle and between various individuals, it can be said that refusal to accept the results sets an unfair standard. (p. 118)

Some intervention projects have published information on their apparent efficacy. However, the sort of data put forward only suggests greater difficulties in unambiguously demonstrating the impact of a therapy group approach. By way of example, consider some figures reported for a program in Kingston, Ontario. There, when police were called to intervene in a "domestic dispute", their report went to a counsellor who made contact with the parties, attempting to visit them within a week of the incident and offering assistance. In general, direct assistance provided was short-term, involving an average of two counselling sessions and not a complete therapeutic program.* Follow-up interviews six to nine months later produced the following results:

Table 8. Effect of Short-term Counselling (Frontenac Family Referral Service)**

	Women (N=23)	Men (N=11)
Since seeing the counsellor would you say the violence has been:		
stopped?	64%	45%
reduced?	23	45
the same?	9	9
worse?	4	-
	100%	99%

* Some clients were referred to other programs which may have involved treatment or long-term counselling.

** From Knowles and Middleton, 1980, Table 2.

Ignoring, for our purposes here, differences between the men's and women's reports, it would seem that relatively short-term counselling "stops" all recurrence of violence in roughly half the cases. If we take this result at face value*, it implies that at least half the men who enter men's therapy groups could be expected not to engage in further violence over the course of the therapy and into the follow-up period in any case. There is even less scope for showing a decisive change due to the therapy group program per se if we consider the combined categories of "stopped" and "reduced" violence. By this standard, fully 80% to 90% of men could be expected to exhibit less violence over this period even without extensive therapy. The data in this illustration are too limited to be regarded as anything but suggestive. However, they certainly support the contention that, without careful controls, it will be impossible to decide one way or the other about program success.

At this point, we can only endorse the sentiment that an attempt at collecting and interpreting evaluative data should be made. The project therapists have Straus Conflict Tactics Scale scores for a sample of the men and some for the women (see our brief analysis of these in the appendix on Client Profile). They may use the opportunity at follow-up to administer the scale again and at least get some indications of whether this approach seems promising. To attempt any kind of convincing study, however, requires the ability to control for various differences, and that implies fairly large sample sizes to produce statistically meaningful results. Outcome evaluation remains, therefore, a long-term project - maintaining documentation on group clients, as discussed above, attempting to keep track of them in follow-up and gradually building up the data over a number of groups that permits the testing of alternative explanations.

As to formation of control groups for comparative purposes, while random assignment of assaultive males to group therapy or non-treatment remains

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* It is possible to validate this partially by cross-checking for police call-backs over the period, emergency room visits, etc.

problematic, the very fact that court referrals seem not to have included all potential clients through the pilot project period now creates an opportunity. It is worth exploring the possibility of retrospectively combing through court records and police reports to try to piece together the beginnings of a comparable (non)group. Outcome evaluation remains an ongoing goal. The program has matured enough during its pilot project period that it becomes reasonable to focus on this problem.

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APPENDIX A
CLIENT PROFILE

Introduction

Two sets of information are given in this appendix by way of setting out a client profile. The first is background information - the age, educational level, marital status, country of birth and occupation of the clients referred to the group. In each case, those who actually entered groups are distinguished from those who were either rejected as unsuitable or later decided not to attend. It is worth noting that the differences on these points between these groupings are not marked. No analysis accompanies this first section of tables as they are discussed in the text of the report in various other places. Some additional information on the recruitment base is given in Tables X to XIII where the recruitment source is analyzed by age, length of relationship, country of birth and education of the clients.

The second section is an analysis of some information on reported levels of violence, using information supplied by a large sampling of the men who entered the group and comparing a smaller sample of those with parallel reports supplied by some spouses. Those tables are preceded by a brief description of the questionnaire by which the information was collected, a table (Table XV) which interprets crude scores on the questionnaire in terms of a general population response and some discussion of the findings.

A. Background Information

Table I. Recruitment

Intake Interview	34			
Accepted	31	Refused	3	
		Reason	3	Extreme denial
			2	Poor English
			1	Other
Entered Group	27	No Show	4	

Table II. Age of Clients

Age	Group Members	Refused, no show
20-29	9	2
30-39	10	5
40-49	5	-
50+	3	-
Total	27	7
Median	32	30
Range	24-65	

Table III. Educational Level

Schooling	Group Members	Refused, No Show
Gr. 8 or less	7	-
Gr. 9 to 11	5	2
Gr. 12	8	3
Trade School	4	2
University	2	-
(No Info.)	1	-
Total	27	7
Median	Gr. 12	Gr. 12
Range	Gr. 7 - B.A.	

Table IV. Marital Status

	Group Members	Refused, no show
Married	9	5
Common-law	3	-
Separated	15	2
Total	27	7

Table V. Length of Time Couple Lived Together

Time Together	Group Members	Refused, No Show
1 year or less	1	-
2 years	4	1
3-5 years	5	4
6-10 years	10	-
11+	7	2
Total	27	7
Median	8 years	4 years
Range	6 mo.-32 years	

Table VI. Previous Marriages

	Group Members	Refused, No Show
None	22	7
One	4	-
Two	1	-
Total	27	7

Table VII. Number of Children

	Group Members	Refused, No Show
None	3	-
One	7	3
Two	11	3
Three or more	6	1
Total	27	7
Median	2 children	2 children
Range	0 -6 children	

Table VIII. Country of Birth

Group Members	Canada(14), China(1),England (3), Fiji (4) India (2),Poland(1),Portugal(1), Trinidad (1)
Refused, No Show	Canada(3), Fiji (1),India (1), Italy (1) and Jugoslavia (1)

Table IX. Occupation

Group Members	Autobody worker (1), Businessman (2), Cabinetmaker (2), Carpenter (2), Dry-cleaner (1), Dry-waller (1), Garbageman (1), Labourer (5), Machinist (1), Manager (1), Mechanic (2), Mover (1), Musician (1), Pipefitter (1), Salesman (2), Taxi driver (1), Truck driver (3), Warehouseman (1),
Refused, No Show	Cabinetmaker (1), Electrician (1), Labourer (3), Mechanic (1), Taxi driver (1)

Table X. Age by Recruitment Source

Age	Court Directed	Voluntary Court Referred	Voluntary Other Referral
20-29	6	-	5
30-39	8	5	2
40-49	3	-	2
50+	1	-	2
Total	18	5	11
Median	31.5 years	32 years	30 years

Table XI. Length of Time Couple Lived Together by Recruitment Source

Age	Court Directed	Voluntary Court Referred	Voluntary Other Referral
1 year or less	0	0	1
2 years	3	0	2
3-5 years	4	3	2
6-10 years	5	1	3
11+	6	0	3
Total	18	4	11
Median	7.5 years	4 years	6 years

Table XII. Country of Birth by Recruitment Source

Court-directed	Canada (9), China (1), India (2), Italy (1), Jugoslavia (1), Poland (1), Portugal (1)
Court-referred (voluntary	Canada (2), Fiji (2), India (1)
Other refferal	Canada (6), England (3), Fiji (1), Trinidad(1)

Table XIII. Education by Referral Source

Schooling	Court Directed	Voluntary Court Referred	Voluntary Other Referral
Grade 8 or less	6	0	1
Grade 9 to 11	1	2	4
Grade 12	6	1	4
Trade School	4	1	1
University	1	0	1
Total	18	4	11
Median	Grade 12	Grade 11	Grade 12

B. Level of Violence - Self Reports

Figure 2 presents the very slightly modified version of the Straus Conflict Tactics Scale that was used by the researchers in this project. The modifications include the addition of item d, the addition of "yelled" to item e, the elimination of a "don't know" response column and the incorporation of an "ever happened" column (rather than as a separate question).

Population norms for this scale have been developed based on responses from a representative sample of adults in the U.S. Scoring is a matter of simply summing circled responses on the questionnaire for each of the three indexes which characterize the kinds of conflict tactics: reasoning incorporates items a, b and c; verbal aggression items e, f, g, i, j and k; and violent aggression, measured on items l through s. Item d, the added item, is not scored for these purposes. Item h ("cried") is also excluded.

To take an example, for an individual who, in the past year: (a) never discussed an issue calmly; (b) never used information in arguing his case; and (c) only once brought in someone to help settle things; - the reasoning score is 0 + 0 + 1 = 1.

The advantage of this scheme and scoring method is simplicity. It is not clear, logically, what real sense it makes to sum item scores. Be that as it may, the Straus Conflict Tactics Scale remains the standard in its field. Table XIV sets out the centile rankings of the raw scores.

Twenty of the men who were referred to the therapy group filled out conflict tactics questionnaires. Table XVI shows how they characterize themselves and their wives. Note that, while they characterize themselves as low on reasoning tactics, they score their spouses even lower. On average, they acknowledge being both more verbally aggressive and markedly more violent than their wives. However, a majority characterize their wives as highly or extremely aggressive and violent as well.

Figure 2. Conflict Tactics Scale

B. Marital Relationship

I. No matter how well a couple gets along, there are times when they disagree on major decisions, get annoyed about something the other person does, or just have spats or fights because they're in a bad mood or tired or for some other reasons. They also use different ways of trying to settle their differences. Below are listed a number of behaviors that people use to settle differences. Please read each one and circle the number that best represents how often in the past year that you and your partner have used these behaviors when dealing with each other.

	You - In past year								Partner - In past year							
	NEVER	ONCE	TWICE	3-5 TIMES	6-10 TIMES	11-20 TIMES	MORE THAN 20 TIMES	EVER HAPPENED?	NEVER	ONCE	TWICE	3-5 TIMES	6-10 TIMES	11-20 TIMES	MORE THAN 20 TIMES	EVER HAPPENED?
a. Discussed the issue calmly	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
b. Got information to back up (your/his) side of things	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
c. Brought in or tried to bring in someone to help settle things.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
d. Argued heatedly but short of yelling.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
e. Insulted, yelled or swore at the other one.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
f. Sulked and/or refused to talk about it.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
g. Stomped out of the room or house (or yard)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
h. Cried	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
i. Did or said something to spite the other one.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
j. Threatened to hit or throw something at the other one	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
k. Threw or smashed or hit or kicked something	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
l. Threw something at the other one	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
m. Pushed, grabbed, or shoved the other one	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
n. Slapped the other one	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
o. Kicked, bit, or hit with a fist	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
p. Hit or tried to hit with something	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
q. Beat up the other one	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
r. Threatened with a knife or gun	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
s. Used a knife or gun	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
t. Other _____	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	X

A small sample of the men's spouses (N=7) filled out a conflict tactics questionnaire as well. Tables XVII to XIX compare respective rankings of the spouses. The means differ in expected directions. Men see themselves as more reasonable than their spouses; the women report the contrary. The men see their spouses as verbally aggressive as themselves. Their wives agree that the men are very aggressive but see themselves as significantly less so. Men acknowledge themselves to be more violent than their spouses. Their wives agree but perceive the difference as much greater still. If anything, the table based on means underplays the disagreement. The tables of comparative rankings shows by how great a margin the wives see their husbands as less reasonable and see themselves as less aggressive and violent.

Denial (and accompanying self-delusion) are common traits of assaultive husbands. The conflict tactics scale is one small way of attempting to make the man specify the seriousness of the fights, possible escalation of violence and possible disjunction between the actions of his wife and himself. The scale is (very roughly) ordinal. For example, it places threatening with a weapon above beating up because the introduction of a weapon makes a phychological difference and elevates the potential for lethality.

Table XX shows the distribution of most violent tactics reported. Whatever the level of denial, **the instrument is successful in showing that the men apply more violence, and, at the minimum, are engaging in quite unequal fights.**

Table XIV. Percentile Equivalent of Conflict Tactics Scale Raw Scores (from Straus et al., 1979)

Centile	Husband-Wife			Wife-Husband		
	R	VA	VL	R	VA	VL
1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	1	-	-
10	2	-	-	2	-	-
15	3	-	-	3	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	4	-	-	4	-	-
30	-	1	-	-	1	-
35	5	2	-	5	2	-
40	-	3	-	-	3	-
45	6	-	-	6	4	-
50	-	4	-	-	-	-
55	-	5	-	-	5	-
60	-	6	-	7	6	-
65	7	7	-	8	7	-
70	8	8	-	-	8	-
75	9	9	-	9	9	-
80	10	11	-	10	11	-
85	11	13	1	11	13	1
90	12	15	2	12	15	2
95	13	19	4	13	20	4
99	15	30	14	14	28	15

R = Reasoning VA = Verbal Aggression VL = Violence

Table XV. Conflict Tactics Scores - Male Respondents

Ranking Scale	Husband to Wife			Wife to Husband		
	R	VA	VL	R	VA	VL
Low (1-50 centile)	11	2	2	12	2	6
Moderate (51-85 centile)	6	1	1	6	3	1
High (86-95 centile)	3	4	6	1	7	8
Extreme (96-99 centile)	0	12	11	1	7	5
Median	low	extreme	extreme	low	high	high
Median Centile	45th	96th	97th	35th	93rd	90th

R = Reasoning VA = Verbal Aggression VL = Violence

Table XVII. Comparative Conflict Tactics Scores - Means of Raw Scores

Scale	Husbands re Themselves		Wives re Husbands		Husbands re Wives		Wives re Themselves	
	Mean	Centile	Mean	Centile	Mean	Centile	Mean	Centile
Reasoning	7.9	70th	6.4	55th	5.6	40th	7.9	70th
Verbal Agression	23.6	96	26.6	97	21.3	96	14.6	88
Violence	13.6	99	22.1	99+	6.6	97	2.0	90

Table XVIII. Conflict Tactics Scores - Comparative Rankings

as judged by:	Husband's Reasoning		Wife's Reasoning	
	Himself	Wife	Husband	Herself
Ranking				
Low (1-50 centile)	3	5	5	3
Moderate (51-85 centile)	3	1	2	3
High (86-95 centile)	1	1	0	0
Extreme (96-99)	0	0	0	1
Median	moderate	low	low	moderate

Table XIX.

as judged by:	Husband's Verbal Aggression		Wife's Verbal Aggression	
	Himself	Wife	Husband	Herself
Low	0	0	0	1
Moderate	0	0	0	2
High	1	0	3	3
Extreme	6	7	4	1
Median	extreme	extreme	extreme	high

Table XX. Conflict Tactics Scores - Comparative Rankings

as judged by:	Husband's Reasoning		Wife's Reasoning	
	Himself	Wife	Husband	Herself
Ranking				
Low (1-50 centile)	0	0	1	4
Moderate (51-85 centile)	0	0	0	1
High (86-95 centile)	2	0	3	0
Extreme (96-99)	5	7	3	2
Median	moderate	low	low	moderate

Table XXI. Most Violent Act Reported

Conflict Tactic	Men re Themselves	Men re Their Wives
x. No interpersonal assault	2	6
l. Threw something at the other one	0	1
m. Pushed, grabbed or shoved the other one	1	2
n. Slapped the other one	1	2
o. Kicked, bit or hit with a fist	3	4
p. Hit or tried to hit with something	3	3
q. Beat up the other one	8	1
r. Threatened with a knife or gun	2	1
s. Used a knife or gun	0	0
Median	Beat Up	Slapped

APPENDIX B

CHRONOLOGY OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

I. March 1977 to March 1980

MARCH 1977 * Symposium on Family Violence recommends setting up support (consciousness raising) groups for men who batter, particularly for "first offenders".

MAY 1977 * United Way begins follow-up Task Force on Family Violence. One of its committees is charged with task of developing the men's support groups. (Another begins development of a complementary program of support services for battered women.)

JULY 1977 * A draft proposal - "Group Sessions for Batterers" - is prepared. It raises the question of the approach towards mandatory vs. voluntary participation.

> An area which has caused debate is the issue of voluntary vs. involuntary attendance at the groups. Several men who participated in the Vancouver groups were referred by Family Court workers with apparent success. However, there are questions about the ethics of involuntary attendance, the chances of success for a group composed entirely of court referrals, attendance as a condition of probation or pre-sentencing and so forth. (Interestingly, it has been workers in the judicial system who have raised the most concern around these issues). (McKenzie, in MacLeod, 1979; p. V-3)

OCTOBER 1977 * A specialist in group process volunteers to train prospective leaders in small group skills. Regular sessions begin with five experienced (male) counsellors who volunteered their time.

> The committee which was formed to act on this recommendation immediately became aware of several problem areas as well as possible solutions to these problems. One problem was that there was no material available on working with these men in a therapeutic or self-help model. This problem was alleviated by the assistance of Professor Larry Shulman with regard to small group skills, and by the information and perceptions of several workers from the Vancouver Transition House and Ishtar Transition House, as well as a number of women who had been in abusive relationships. (Ibid., p. V-4)

NOVEMBER 1977 * The trainer runs a workshop on how to make appropriate referrals to the men's support groups. Over 20 agencies are represented.

* A flyer describing the program and referral procedure is made up and distributed.

* Contact made with Vancouver Family Court staff to acquaint probation officers and family court counsellors with mechanics of program. Contacts are planned with the judges, Car 86 (a police/counsellor crisis intervention service), parental stress line, Parents in Crisis, etc.

> A second problem was, would men who had battered come forward voluntarily to seek some form of help for themselves? Related to this was the question of whether workers who were involved in dealing with wife-abuse cases would refer to and/or utilize the groups. In an effort to resolve these questions, workshops and presentations to professional workers and media presentations were made so that the general aims and availability of the groups were made known. This information sharing has been ongoing until the present time. (Ibid.)

* Regular committee meetings are instituted to plan for the eventual transfer of the program to an appropriate agency if the groups are demonstrably effective.

DECEMBER 1977 * The first men's group is formed under the leadership of one of the trained counsellors. The group format which developed is described by him as follows:

1. We have been interviewing the men as they are referred to us. In this way group leaders get a sense of who they will be working with and vice-versa. This procedure seems to be very effective because the men will usually bring out reservations and concerns more readily in the "one-to-one" than they would in a group.

2. During the interview, and when the group meets in its first session, form a contract with them about the group's purpose and the leader's role.

3. The first two meetings will probably be spent mostly on the men identifying with each other. Many of the men we have seen have stated that they wanted to talk with somebody about these

problems but had not found the opportunity. When they get into a group with each other, it is a very exciting and reassuring experience to find that others have the same problems and want to do something about them.

4. Because of the identification and ventilation process indicated above, we found it advisable to allow no new members into the group after the second session. Otherwise you spend another meeting going back over the same stories.

5. The groups in Vancouver meet once a week for ten weeks, with a follow-up period agreed upon by the group members. Average time for each session has been one and one-half to two hours. (Ibid., p. V-3)

* Ongoing bi-weekly group leader consultations with the trainer are set up.

* (A feminist counsellor volunteers to act as training consultant for group leaders for support groups for battered women being planned by the parallel committee - the working group on wife battering.)

JANUARY 1978 * The first group leader is interviewed by the Globe and Mail. Program attracts interview requests from CTV Toronto, Peter Gzowski, Jack Webster, several other local radio stations and the Vancouver daily newspapers.

* Two of the volunteer counsellors ask for release time from the Ministry of Human Resources to devote to support groups; request is denied.

* "Fact Sheet" to record basic information on group members is designed by another of the counsellors.

FEBRUARY 1978 * Second distribution of the publicity flyer to potential referral agents.

* Two of the counsellors regretfully withdraw from pool of group leaders.

MARCH 1978 * Second group begins with the other two remaining trained counsellors as co-leaders.

* (Training Sessions - weekly for ten weeks, led by the feminist counsellor and another (female) trainer and based on a post-partem counselling model - begin for a pool of 9 prospective women's support group leaders.)

MAY 1978 * First group leader begins a third men's support group.

* He also presents a paper "Establishing Support Groups for Men" at the Conciliation Courts Conference meeting in Vancouver.

* Informal exploration of funding possibilities (and criteria) begun with National Health and Welfare, Vancouver Foundation and Ministry of Human Resources.

JUNE 1978 * A publicity poster for use by social service agencies is designed.

* A volunteer with Family Services of Greater Vancouver, approaches her board with a proposal to expand the support group program.

AUGUST 1978 * A joint application to Health and Welfare Canada is planned for the funding of both men's support groups and battered women's support services (including self-help groups).

* The executive director of Family Services invites sub-committee looking for funding to meet with him.

SEPTEMBER 1978 * (First group for battered women begins at Ishtar Transition House.)

OCTOBER 1978 * First group leader begins fourth men's support group. Reflecting on his overall experience, he notes:

> It probably will be necessary to have persons with highly developed sensitivity and skills to work with groups composed of particular ethnic or racial groups. Ideally the worker might be from the particular group or else have been accepted as being understanding of their background. (Ibid., V-3)

NOVEMBER 1978 * A group leader and a woman representing women's support groups on the planning committee submit a draft joint proposal for discussion. The service was to be provided under the auspices of Family Services of Greater Vancouver. Speaking of the men's group component, the group leader provided a humanistic rationale:

> To offer men, especially violent men, support in exploring their fears, needs and destructive use of force, whether physical or psychological, is to challenge in some basic way what we have as a culture accepted as a definition of masculinity. When that definition reaches the extreme of spousal violence we have either tried to ignore it if they were our neighbours or possibly ostracize it through the court system where the roots of violence are never dealt with.... Whether this project receives funding may be intrinsically dependent on whether or not we as a society are ready to support men in the work of self-knowledge. (MacLeod, 1979; p. V-7)

* Video clip of group meeting (led by the group leader who drafted the program proposal) done for hour-long program on wife abuse aired on "Fifth Estate". "Vancouver Show" airs an interview with him. Radio interviews of first group leader are aired on Don Harron's "Morningside" (CBC National Network) and of the proposal drafter on "Three's Company" (CBC-local), and on CJOR. Articles quoting him eventually appear in Reader's Digest and Chatelaine.

* The Vancouver Foundation indicates it would be prepared to fund onethird of the proposal if matching funds are first secured from other sources. They argue that a private funder should not take a lead role in what they saw as logically a government mandated service.

JANUARY 1979 * Fifth men's support group begins with the proposal drafter and another psychologist as co-leaders. (In fact, these are the two psychologists who initiated the present pilot project.)

* Health and Welfare defers proposal to 1981 funding year.

MARCH 1979 * MHR rejects funding proposal, stating counselling services are already available through existing services.

MAY 1979 * United Way Task Force on Family Violence ends, submits final report. Among its recommendations are:

> That secure financial resources be located from private and public sources for support group projects to allow the development and testing of training approaches and self-help group concepts. (MacLeod, 1979; p. 8)
>
> That agencies such as the Ministry of Human Resources, the Corrections Branch and the Department of Indian Affairs encourage staff who are interested in conducting preventive programmes such as support groups for men and for women, that this encouragement take the form of time for training and programme development, payment of any registration fees and recognition of job evaluation. (p. 22)
>
> That in any support or treatment group for men who batter, adequate monitoring and evaluation be carried out to determine the actual effect on ending violence in the home. (p. 12)

JUNE 1979 * Social Planning and Research Committee of United Way agrees to follow up up on Task Force recommendations. Reconstitutes committee on support groups.

* Flyer distributed to advertise sixth men's group.

* Plan to hire summer student to document experience with men's group discussed.

JULY 1979 * Sixth men's group begins with last group leader. He is joined by another new volunteer to the counsellor pool.

* Proposal drafter (along with another representative of women's support groups on the planning committee) are delegated to attempt to revise statement of grounding assumptions.

SEPTEMBER 1979 * He submits his draft statement of assumptions. Among these is the following:

Men who are willing to try should be given the opportunity to avail themselves of counselling specifically aimed at eliminating (their) use of violence by dealing with their sense of themselves as a person and the violence of their conditioning. Men who are not willing to avail themselves of counselling or who continue to use violence while giving lip service to changing should be sent to jail. This must be done to protect their wives, families and any future victims and to enforce the standard that violence against women is not acceptable.

* Representatives of Women's Research Centre, Vancouver Status of Women, and the Battered Women's Support Group redefine their position on the project committee, citing the drain of energy involved in trying to reach consensus on grounding assumptions and noting an apparent disagreement with the men's group leaders on these matters. They retain one liaison person but withdrew others to work on a separate committee.

JANUARY 1980 * Family Services project proposal partially funded by United Way in the sum of $11,000. Matching funding sought from Vancouver Foundation. Exploration still under way with Department of Health and Welfare and the federal Interdepartmental Committee on Family Violence. No apparent funding possibilities through the province in 1980.

* United Way committee considers two proposals to Family Services for use of the funds. The Battered Women's Support Services Coalition feels the area of greatest need is victim services and that that service should be located outside existing agencies. The second proposal is more diffuse, attempting to establish counselling and support services for assaultive men as well as battered women, some public education, professional training and research into community needs and remedies.

MARCH 1980 * Responsibility for searching for funding and establishing a network of services is taken over by Family Services which strikes its own advisory committee.

* Family Services takes referrals from men for support groups. The last group leader arranges to lead the first group organized under their auspices.

* The United Way Committee on Support Services disbands.

II. April 1980 to Date

APRIL 1980 * Vancouver Family Court Management Committee Annual Conference in Parksville features sessions on wife-battering. The proposal drafter's presentation on anger therapy techniques for treating assaultive males provokes enthusiasm for further batterers' groups. It is suggested that Corrections is an appropriate funder.

MAY/JUNE 1980 * Corrections staff undertakes a mini-survey to gauge the general need for this service and check whether any existing services are already available on a fee-for-service basis.

JUNE 1980 * The regional program analyst with Corrections meets with the pair of group leaders to discuss a possible proposal.

* These group leaders discuss idea at a meeting with some twenty family court counsellors and other Corrections staff from the Vancouver region. Results of the Corrections mini-survey suggest that three charges per week are laid by battered wives at the Vancouver Family Court alone. A review of that court's records for the period Dec. 1979 through May 1980 turned up 90 cases (66 assault, 19 threatening, 5 mischief or other charges). Roughly half those cases come to trial and were proceeded with.

JULY 1980 * Issue of professional status is raised by the chief psychologist at Corrections. As neither of the group leaders are registered clinical

psychologists, policy then being negotiated suggested they could not be granted a contract to provide clinical service. One group leader informally canvasses clinicians for interest and meets with a (female) clinical psychologist. The issue is eventually resolved on the basis that the contract would be with the firm of West Coast SABRE (run by the other group leader) which would provide for registered clinical supervision.

* A family court judge (subsequently administrative judge for family courts in this area) sends letter in support of the project to proposed funders - the Consultation Centre and Corrections branch.

JANUARY 1981 * The clinical psychologist agrees to provide clinical supervision. In the interests of experimenting with a male/female co-led group, consideration is given to her teaming with the original proposal drafter.

* The regional program analyst undertakes a further poll of probation officers in Vancouver Region to ensure that proposed batterers' groups are seen as a useful and effective way of meeting service need. Results positive.

FEBRUARY 1981 * The proposal is among the top group of 7 among about 50 Vancouver Region Corrections' projects priorized. Proposal for joint funding goes to federal and provincial governments.

APRIL 1981 * Agreement in principle to fund the project starting September/ October through Corrections (B.C.) and Consultation Centre (Solicitor General, Canada). Budgetary restraints suggest there will not be enough money for full-scale evaluation.

JULY 1981 * Separate proposal put in by West Coast SABRE for evaluation of groups to be funded by Research Division of Solicitor General.

SEPTEMBER 1981 * Evaluation component severed from therapy group project; United Way submits a proposal for an independent evaluative component of the project.

* Contract with Solicitor General for about half the demonstration project costs is signed. (Program announced by Minister on September 23rd.) Story carried in Vancouver newspapers and Globe and Mail, also announced on CBC National News.

OCTOBER 1981 * Provincial government withdraws its contract for redrafting (as it is in the process of developing a standard contract). In the new contract, the terms of agreement are altered somewhat and further negotiations necessitated. A waiver is eventually added preserving the therapists' rights to research data generated and therapeutic exercises developed.

NOVEMBER 1982 * The co-leader attends a meeting with Vancouver Family Court judges. He outlines the program and its role as a sentencing resource is discussed.

DECEMBER 1981 * Revised B.C. contract signed. Contract for evaluation signed with United Way.

JANUARY 1982 * Discussions held with administrative judge about program scope. Initially, the program is limited to post-conviction option.

* Co-leader discusses referral process and intake procedures with new Corrections liaison for project and another Family Court counsellor. A letter outlining referral procedures was to go out to family court counsellors the following week. The draft goes to the director of East District for signature.

* Contract delivered to therapists. Project officially underway, retroactive to Dec. 6, 1981.

FEBRUARY 1982 * Group leaders plan details of format in preparation for imminent group formation.

* After some delay, the letter to family court counsellors finally goes out to offices. (See Appendix G).

MARCH 1982

* Co-counsellor guests on the "Vancouver Morning Show" (with Maria LaRose, CKVU).

* First intake interview held at the Vancouver Family Court. One client was referred; initially thought unsuitable but later accepted into the group.

APRIL 1982 * Corrections Newsletter outlines the program (see Appendix H).

* District director sends follow-up letter to family court counsellors. He notes, "to date the number of referrals has not been adequate enough to institute the first treatment group. Why there have not been more referrals remains a bit of a mystery however." Coverage is extended to North and West Vancouver Family Courts and on a voluntary basis to men whose charges have been dropped and those who are already on probation (i.e., without condition that they attend treatment as part of their order).

* Therapists meet with Family Management Committee. About 16 Corrections staff are present. A minority still not sold on the program.

* Second and third intake interviews. One client referred and accepted on each occasion.

MAY 1982

* Intake criteria again discussed with family court judge.

* Fourth and fifth clients accepted for therapy. Group size range was meant to be from 6 to 10. Decision made to begin group when 6 clients accepted.

JUNE 1982

* Project leaders meet with district director to address need for further promotion. Discuss more flexible intake. Informally altered terms of contract to create 5 overlapping groups of 16 weeks duration each. Meeting with family court counsellors set up.

* Female co-leader withdraws from project (because she was leaving to set up a practice in Ontario).

* First group meeting; led by both original psychologists. Intake had risen to 8 in the interim, but 2 voluntary clients and 1 court-ordered man decided not to attend. So this group begins with 5 men.

JULY 1982

* Therapist contacts a probation officer in Richmond. They set up September meeting to introduce program to Richmond Family Court.

* Project leaders met with local directors of Corrections and policy analyst from Victoria. Program idea strongly endorsed.

* Therapist interviewed by editor of Liaison (Solicitor General's magazine) for prospective article on battering.

* Co-leader and a graduate student who is engaged in thesis research on battering, meet to coordinate the research component of the project.

AUGUST 1982

* Co-leader is interviewed by Vancouver Sun reporter for an article on battering.

* Other therapist appears on the "Vancouver Morning" t.v. show. Among the callers are three men who self-referred. One enters the group later; another enters into individual therapy.

* He also contacts staff of Ishtar Transition House regarding possible referrals from the Fraser Valley area. Details of the group had never reached them. Follow-up proves positive.

SEPTEMBER 1982

* Second group begins with same co-therapists. The graduate student/ researcher begins group leader internship. As format changed from a planned 12 weekly and 2 all-day sessions to 16 weekly meetings, there are 4 carry-overs from the first group. Five new clients join them.

* Co-leader tapes a section for the "Vancouver Morning" show.

* Program leaders work out expanded program for contacting other family courts in the region.

* Co-leader is interviewed by Daniele Marcotte for Radio Canada program on battering.

* He also speaks at a panel presentation at Langara College on family violence.

* Other therapist attends meeting with Richmond family court counsellors, representatives of the local RCMP force and M.H.R. workers. No follow up with the judges, however.

* New ranking in the regional correction project list ranks batterers' groups third of about 50 projects. Meeting is scheduled for late November to assess funding for 1983 fiscal year.

OCTOBER 1982

* Co-leader addresses Mental Patients Association on battering.

* Third group begins, again with both therapists as co-leaders. Three new clients and 3 carry-overs.

* Other therapist meets with Surrey family court counsellors.

* Co-leader gives a presentation at a Justice Institute-sponsored workshop in Victoria on programs for batterers.

* Other therapist guests on Doug Collin's and Rafe Mair's radio talk show.

NOVEMBER 1982 * Meeting with District Director regarding 1983 fiscal year funding is cancelled. (He has been reassigned to head a special implementation project.) Another Corrections official takes on his role as manager in charge of the project; he devolves responsibility to local level, managed by the head of East office.

DECEMBER 1982

* Co-leader runs a training workshop on battering for MHR volunteers.

* Fourth group begins with co-leader and former research student as leaders. Eleven members in group including 2 carry-overs and 1 man who had been a "no show" earlier.

* Promotional brochures printed (see Appendix C). Mail-out of 750 to family practitioners, social service agencies, all corrections offices, etc.

* Co-leader is interviewed about battering on a radio phone-in show (CKLV, Kelowna).

JANUARY 1983

* Co-leader is interviewed on the "Corelli Show", a t.v. call-in program.

* Fifth group begins with same two therapists. Seven carry-overs and 8 new clients in the group. Further recruitment suspended pending decision on whether to fund program past the pilot project period.

APRIL 1983

* Therapist attends refresher course - a 3-day workshop given by Anne Ganley on her treatment approach.

* Funding for interim period finally approved. Therapist mets with project liaison in Corrections to discuss start-up of a new group and consider referral process clarification.

* Therapists meet with representatives from the Solicitor-General Canada and Act II (a private social service agency) to discuss further funding proposals.

* Co-leader runs a 2-day workshop, "Working with Wife Abuse", in Terrace, B.C. under the auspices of the Justice Institute. Workshop scheduled again for May in Salmon Arm area.

MAY 1983

* Co-leader interviewed by Bob Sharples of CBC interior-B.C. morning radio show.

* Final meeting of fifth group. Pilot project ended except for follow-up counselling.

* Meetings held with Family Court staff to go over intake procedure changes and start recruitment again for new group.

ADDENDUM

* The first new group begins on June 15th with 8 men (3 court-directed and another 3 court-referred voluntary clients).

* A further group begins on August 10th, re-establishing the staggered intake process.

APPENDIX C - BROCHURE

THERAPY GROUPS for WIFE ASSAULTERS

The primary objective of these groups is to stop physical violence.

BASIC GOALS

To learn:

- What is behind the violence expressed in intimate relationships
- How to identify and express a range of emotions.
- Constructive ways of dealing with conflict

Referrals:
Call 255-5131 (Vancouver Family Court) and ask for a family court counsellor.

Group Leaders

These groups are currently being led by:

Don Dutton, PhD., a social psychologist and associate professor at U.B.C. with eight years experience as a researcher and therapist in the area of wife assault.

Dale Trimble, M.A. (Psychology), a therapist in private practice in Vancouver with five years experience in working with violent men and providing professional training in working with wife-assault.

Jim Browning, M.A. a registered clinical psychologist, currently completing a Ph.D. on the causes of wife assault.

These groups are funded by the Ministry of the Attorney-General of B.C. (Corrections Branch) and the Solicitor-General of Canada.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE IN THIS GROUP?

Groups of ten men meet in the evening for sixteen weeks. Through a variety of therapeutic approaches men are encouraged to recognize, take responsibility for, understand and control their violence.

Men in the group are expected to actively participate by sharing honestly their thoughts and feelings about themselves and other group members. Each man keeps an "anger diary" in which he records and analyzes his feelings. Role playing and other techniques are used to uncover assumptions and "self-talk" which may trigger violence.
Anger is seen as a signal of a problem to be solved rather than an excuse to hit. Most men in the groups report that they feel better about themselves after being in the group.

Three follow-up sessions are part of the program for each man. These sessions may be taken individually with one of the therapists or for couples who choose to remain together the follow-up sessions can be used as couples counselling to improve communication after the threat of violence has been reduced.

WHY ARE MEN VIOLENT WITH THEIR WIVES?

WE HOLD MEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN VIOLENCE AND HAVE A COMMITTMENT TO THE NECESSITY OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHANGE AND GROWTH.

We believe that men learn to be violent through witnessing violence or being the object of verbal or physical abuse. Wife-abuse usually occurs under stress when more effective coping and conflict resolution skills are lacking. Then violence is used to express pent-up rage and gain control in intimate relationships.

A "battering cycle" often emerges with violence becoming increasingly severe. Most men feel remorseful and promise to stop violence through will power alone. That is rarely enough.

An understanding of the dynamics of agression, of one's own collection of hurts and disappointments, of the fear behind the anger can help men to learn a new set of reactions to conflict.

Expectations about what a man and woman should like in an intimate relationship often need exploring in the course of showing a man his own role in producing a conflict.

WIFE ASSAULT & THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

We believe that the law, therapy and social change can work together. By aligning therapeutic and criminal justice system responses to wife assault, we are saying that we see this as a crime which must be stopped. As therapists, we view a more active policy of arresting and prosecuting men who assault their wives as completely compatible with our goal of protecting women and increasing public awareness of the seriousness of this crime.

Who Is Eligible To Attend The Groups?

Men who have been convicted of assault against their partners in a Family Court in the Greater Vancouver area can be referred by the judge or their probation officer for an assessment. If they are accepted into the program then attendance and participation in the group will be made a term of their probation. Should they stop attending or participating in the group the man may be returned to court for whatever consequences the judge thinks are appropriate. By providing the group we are not saying that a man should avoid serving time in prison. Sometimes prison may be necessary to protect the victim or impress the man with the seriousness of the crime. Men who have not been charged may attend the group on a volunteer basis by calling their nearest Family Court officer for a referral, or calling the number on the front of this brochure.

APPENDIX D - "ANGER GROUPS" FOR MEN

NORTH SHORE FAMILY SERVICES
202-145 East 15th Street
North Vancouver, B.C.

Redirecting Anger - Alternatives to violence for men.

North Shore Family Services and Ministry of Attorney General, Corrections Branch, are co-sponsoring a group for men who use physical/emotional abuse at home.

The objectives of the group are to:

1. Clearly identify the range of situations in the men's lives which lead to violent episodes and how these affect their relationships with their partners.

2. Look at how the men have habitually handled frustration and stress and consider alternate ways of dealing with life's pressures.

3. Use the peer pressure and support found in these groups as a powerful stimulus for change.

4. Practice the expression of hurtful and angry feelings in non-destructive ways.

5. Clarify the meaning of anger which is often confused with violence and hostility. The aim of anger is to discharge the feelings in a way that lets the other person know where one is at. Anger wants impact, contact, not hurt. Hostility is the thwarting of the natural expression of anger and its aims are hurt and destruction.

Attendance at this group may be voluntary or by a court order.

The leader, Deryl Goldenberg, M.A. is a psychotherapist specializing in Men's Groups and has a private practice in Vancouver. This is the first time a programme of this kind has been offered on the North Shore and Mark Rayter, M.S.W., a family counsellor at North Shore Family Services will be co-leading with Deryl.

For further information or referral, call North Shore Family Services, 926-7851 or 988-5281. Mark or Deryl will meet individually with each prospective group member to allow both a chance to assess whether the program is a suitable resource. The group works best for men who show an interest and come willingly.

The group has been advertised publicly as follows:

A slap, leading to a punch or a beating is the way many men handle problems at home. Often they know that the violence is not a solution, but they do not know how else to respond. If you want to change your way of handling anger this group may be able to help you.

7:30 - 9:30 pm January 28th $20.00* 10 Thursdays

* Other than Ministry of Attorney General referrals; fee is negotiable.

82.01.04

Province of British Columbia — Ministry of the Attorney General — MEMORANDUM

To: All Juvenile Probation and Family Court Services Offices, Vancouver Region

Date: February 10th, 1982

File:

From: #203 - 4285 Grange Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1P2

Re: ASSAULTIVE HUSBANDS PROJECT

As I am sure you are all aware by now the Vancouver Region and the Ministry of the Solicitor General (Canada) have been negotiating with a group of Psychologists known corporately as West Coast Social and Behavioural Research Enterprises, for the delivery of a pilot project focusing on treatment for Husbands who batter their wives. The negotiation process has been concluded and we are now ready to move ahead with this innovative effort.

The following documents are attached for your information and use and with this information in hand the project can move into the operations phase:

a) A project description, titled, "Assaultive Husbands Project", which gives the reader the practical details of the project.

b) A statement of procedure titled, "Referral Procedure Vancouver Assaultive Husbands Project", with very specific procedures for a referring Probation Officer or Family Court Counsellor to follow.

c) A referral intake sheet titled "Assaultive Husbands Referral Intake Sheet" which will be completed by our Vale Street Intake Unit.

Would you please ensure each of your staffs have a copy of each of these documents as soon as possible. Further would you please inform staffs the Project Members are prepared to begin accepting referrals immediately. Please note any referrals should only be post conviction.

.... 2

Re: Assaultive Husbands Project

For the moment only assaults which are processed through the Vancouver Family Court can be considered for referral. Should we find there are insufficient referrals from this Court alone then consideration will be given to requesting intake from other Courts.

Your co-operation and assistance in distributing this information to staff is appreciated. With our support this innovative response to the serious problem of wife battering should receive a full testing.

encl.

ASSAULTIVE HUSBANDS PROJECT

Project: This project is designed to offer treatment to husbands* who batter their wives and to evaluate the effectiveness of this treatment. The funding is jointly provided by the B.C. Corrections Branch and the Solicitor-General of Canada.

Clients: Any husband who has been convicted of assaulting his wife*.

Treatment Program:

Clients will attend 12 weekly Thursday evening group sessions between 7:00 and 10:30 p.m. and 2 one-day eight hour individual weekend sessions, one near the beginning of the treatment period, one near the end. Three hours of follow up sessions per client are included as part of the treatment program. The entire program will be 6½ months from entry into the first group session until the end of follow up. All sessions will take place at the Weaver Institute, 1295 Johnstone St., Granville Island.

Requirements for Participants:

All participants in the program must speak English and must agree to: (1) attend in a sober condition and participate readily in all sessions; and
(2) complete a written anger diary to be submitted to the therapists at the beginning of each session.

Criteria for Admission & Rejection:

All clients must have as a condition of their probation order that they "attend and participate in the Vancouver Assaultive Husbands Project as directed by their probation officer." Each client accepted must be approved on an intake assessment by project staff.

If a client does not participate in the group, misses one or more sessions, refuses to keep the anger diary or continues with violent behaviour, the therapists will take appropriate action which may involve expulsion from the group. Such actions will be taken in cooperation with the probation officer.

Confidentiality:

The therapeutic principle of confidentiality will be honoured to the greatest possible extent. The exception to this rule will occur in the event of imminent danger to the safety of another person, in particular the wife or child of a group member. In such cases, both the potential victim and the appropriate justice official will be notified.

* This term includes common-law relationships.

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VANCOUVER FAMILY COURT - ASSAULTIVE HUSBANDS PROJECT

The Assaultive Husbands Project is receiving referrals again. Given the increased demand for this service over the latter six months of the last fiscal year, with a similar continued level of demand this program may be able to be offered on a continuing basis.

Referral Criteria:

The Assaultive Husbands Project welcomes any referral. Though there is a preference given to those referred as a condition of a Probation Order, voluntary referrals are also appropriate. The following guidelines, however, may assist Family Court Counsellors in determining whether their client may be able to benefit from the program:

1) The man should not have a chronic alcohol or drug abuse problem but if such a problem exists the man would be an appropriate referral if initially or concurrently with this program he participates in a substance abuse problem.

2) The man should not present an imminent danger to his family, the community and/or himself but he would be an appropriate referral if other specific safeguards are in place (e.g.: no contact term).

3) The man who denies, minimizes or appears unmotivated may be referred to the program.

4) The man must not be mentally ill.

5) The man must speak English sufficiently to be able to participate in the sessions.

6) The man will not be considered for the program if he is before the courts pending disposition (the concern being the promise of attendance would be used to pressure the spouse to request the charge(s) be withdrawn).

If there are any questions about a particular referral please contact the project staff.

Referral Process:

Appointments for an intake assessment can be booked by calling Lorraine Johnson at Vancouver Family Court (255-5131). Intake interviews are conducted on Friday mornings at the Vancouver Family Court (2625 Yale Street). The Family Court Counsellor should complete

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and forward a Referral Form to Lorraine Johnson prior to the intake assessment or at least provide the requested information to Lorraine Johnson by telephone prior to the intake assessment.

Program Length and Expectations:

Men referred to the program are seen for one and one-half hours in an intake assessment. If accepted, they must attend sixteen weekly sessions on a weeknight from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Only two absences are allowed after which the man is expelled from the program, unless there are justifiable reasons. Doors are locked at 7:15 p.m. and those arriving after that time are considered absent. Three months follow-up sessions are offered to each man.

Feedback to Family Court Counsellors:

The referring Family Court Counsellor is notified as soon as possible following an intake assessment as to whether the man has been accepted into the program. Family Court Counsellors are also notified in the event the man will be asked to leave the program. The project staff do not want to be in a position of testifying for or against the men in the program as it interfers with their therapeutic role. They will provide, however, the dates of the man's attendance and appear in court if necessary. At the man's completion of the program a summary of his participation and recommendations will be provided to the referring Family Court Counsellor.

Please call if you have any questions or comments regarding the program.

Referral Procedure Vancouver Assaultive Husbands Project

- The referring probation officer or family court counsellor should telephone at the Vancouver Yale St. court team to arrange for an appropriate Friday working assessment appointment.
- The Court Yale St. office will fill out a referral sheet with the following information to be given over the phone:
  - client name, address and telephone
  - P.O.'s name and office
  - brief particulars and status of allegation or offense.
- Two project counsellors will interview referrals at the Court Team office Fridays between 9 a.m. and 12:30. They will decide on appropriateness of each referral and will that afternoon telephone the probation officer concerned, with either an acceptance and a projected first meeting date or an indication that the client is inappropriate.
- The probation officer should then direct appropriate clients to attend the program giving them details of time and location.
- If a client fails to attend any one counselling session or to participate readily in the program, a counsellor from the project will notify the P.O. involved and decide in conjunction with them on appropriate action.
- A counsellor from the project will notify the probation officer in writing when a client successfully completes the program. Counsellors from the project will in addition be open to further telephone discussion concerning clients.

Assaultive Husbands Referral Intake Sheet

Date Referred:

Client Name: Telephone:

Address:

Probation Officer: Telephone:

Office:

Brief Particulars of Allegation of Charge:

APPENDIX F-ii - REVISED REFERRAL FORM

ASSAULTIVE HUSBANDS PROJECT,
2625 Yale Street,
Vancouver, B.C. V5L 3X5
Phone: 255-5131

REFERRAL FORM

Referred by: _____ Date: _____

Address of Referring Office: _____

Telephone No. of Referring Office: _____

Client's Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

_____ _____

Phone No.: _____ Phone No.: _____

Referral Type: Voluntary: _____ Court Order: _____

If by Court Order please indicate:

1) Charge(s): _____
2) Current Status of Charge(s): _____
3) Length of Probation: _____
4) Conditions of Probation Order: _____
5) Date of Offence: _____
6) Date Information was Sworn: _____
7) Date(s) of Court Appearance: _____
8) Name of Sentencing Judge: _____
9) Brief Description of Offence: _____
10) Attitude of Client to Referral: _____
11) Other pertinent comments (e.g. drug/alcohol use, marital status, previous court history, injuries sustained by wife, etc.).

APPENDIX G - REMINDER LETTER

Province of British Columbia — Attorney General

MEMORANDUM

To: All Family Court Counsellors
Vancouver East and West Districts

Date: April 13th, 1982

File:

From: #203 - 4288 Grange Street
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1P2

re: Husbands who Batter their Wifes Treatment Group

As you know the above noted pilot project has been started in Vancouver and the project staff are available for assessment referrals. To date the number of referrals has not be adequate enough to institute the first treatment group. Why there have not been more referrals remains a bit of a mystery, however, in order to broaden the potential client base the following steps are being taken:

1) The project services are being made available to the North and West Vancouver Family Courts.

2) Men who: in the opinion of a Family Court Counsellor, might benefit from participation in such a treatment program but who have not been convicted of assulting their wives or who have been charged and had the charges dropped, can be referred to the project for assessment (whether they will go on not may be another matter).

3) Men who are on probation for assulting their wives but do not have attendance for treatment as a condition of probation may be referred for voluntary involvement.

All of the other elements of the project remain as previously given. It is hoped this broadening of the client base will enable us to get on with the first treatment group. If you have any questions or concerns with these modifications please let me know.

Wife Assault Program, Vancouver

The Vancouver Family Court Management Committee each year holds a conference for all professional workers and invited guests associated with family court for the purpose of discussing mutual problems and identifying projects that are designed to improve the delivery of service to the court. The second such conference, held in 1980, identified a significant gap in service by the court to deal specifically with those males who are either found guilty or alleged to have been involved with a charge of assault against their spouse.

A review of existing community resources indicated that little was available to these men, even on a voluntary basis, with the exception of voluntary support groups available through Vancouver Family Services. The initiative towards creating a viable court option which focusses on treatment of this problem was first undertaken by Mary Murray, the family court counsellor for the Vancouver Region.

With the assistance of Mary Murray, Les Bloom, local director of Abbotsford Probation Office and Vancouver Region program analyst, made contact with Dr. Don Dutton, professor of psychology at the University of British Columbia, who had previously conducted some work in this area for the federal government and, as well, particular police forces. With assistance from Dale Trumble, a practising counsellor who had experience in this area, a program was developed that would meet the needs of the court in providing both a voluntary treatment program and a sentencing option for consideration by a family court judge. Assistance and consultation were also provided by Doug Campbell, administrative judge of Vancouver Family Court and by Dr. Harry Stevens, chief psychologist for Corrections Branch.

In order to provide assistance in the evaluation of the project, the Department of the Solicitor General was approached for funding. In recognition of a high need for this service (one of the Solicitor General's program priority areas) the Solicitor General agreed to equally share in the overall program costs.

Essentially, the project will run over a 13-month period (December 1, 1981, to December 31, 1982) and consist of three groups. Each group will have between six and eight men referred by either the court or a family court counsellor. The groups will meet weekly for 10 sessions and for one full weekend, and will focus on anger management, stress management, life-style management, and communication skills, using a variety of teaching and therapeutic techniques. The United Way will conduct the evaluation.

In addition, participants will be provided with three follow-up sessions which may be shared with their spouses.

SABRE (West Coast Social and Behavioural Research Enterprises), the project contractor, will:

- provide, as a sentencing option to the courts, a therapeutic group for males who have assaulted their wives;
- run three therapeutic groups of six to 10 persons;
- provide the clinical supervision for assessment and treatment services;
- provide the province with a final report in publishable form within three months of the termination of this project; and
- submit interim reports on or before February 28, 1982, and July 31, 1982.

The steps in the therapeutic process are as follows:

- development in the client of admission of the seriousness of the consequence of his violence;
- acceptance of personal responsibility for his violence;
- a re-learning of anger management that involves improved ability to recognize anger-inducing situations, separate anger from other feeling states and behave in a non-violent way when feeling angry; and
- a consolidation and support function during which new habits replace the old.

This anger control program works on the assumption that wife assault is a learned habit and that responsibility for changing the habit rests on the assaulter, with help from the therapist. Court-directed therapy has therapeutic advantages in the case of wife assault. Wife assaulters tend to be impulsive and externally directed, hence, they need external motivation to persist through therapy. By instituting this project, the criminal justice system delivers a clear, consistent message to the wife assaulter: that assaulting your wife is wrong, illegal, and must stop, or a legal sanction will be imposed. The therapist provides the guidance for the assaulter in stopping the violence.

Clients may be referred at the time of receiving a warrant or summons, by the judge as a voluntary option at the time of first appearance, or as an alternative to traditional justice options at the time of conviction by way of a term of release, bail or probation. Even at the time of conviction, the defendant will have at least one other option than group therapy. When the defendant chooses group therapy, that will be considered the order of the court, and non-attendance at the group will be considered a breach of that person's terms of probation.

If, upon completion of the group, a couple chooses to either remain together, or requests assistance in negotiating their separation, the family court counsellor can request the therapist's consultation and/or participation in up to two reconciliation sessions with the couple.

Intake assessments for each group will occur prior to assignment to the program and on a weekly basis through the intake period for each group. These assessments will attempt to determine:

- the client's suitability for this particular out-patient service;
- whether any psychotic disorder exists; and
- if there is imminent likelihood of recurring violence.

The therapists reserve the right to refuse a referred client admittance into the service, or to terminate a client's involvement at any point in the service. Such actions are regarded as necessary for the safety and benefit of the other clients and for realistic use of a time-limited out-patient service. In such cases, the family court counsellor will be notified immediately, and as well, provided with a subsequent report.

Evaluation of the effects of this program will use two sets of measures:

- police records of calls for service to client's address, police reports of assaults, hospital emergency ward admissions of client's spouse; and
- self support measures with the client and the client's spouse. □

APPENDIX I - INTAKE FORM

Assaultive Husbands Project

Intake Form

Date _____

Referring P.O. _____ Phone # _____

Client _____	Partner _____
Address _____	Address _____
Phone # _____	Phone # _____
Age _____ D.O.B. _____	Age _____ D.O.B. _____
Employment _____	Employment _____
Education/Training _____	Education/Training _____
Children(Sex and Age of each) _____	Children(Sex and Age of each) _____
_____	_____

Marital Status _____

Years Married _____ Years Living together____ /Country of birth/Ethnicity _____

Previous Marriages/Relationships _____

Dates: Offence _____ Charge _____ Referral _____ Court Apps. _____

1. Describe why you are here.
2. Have you ever been charged or convicted of anything?
3. Describe exactly what happened the last time you were violent with your partner.
4. Describe the worst incident of violence.
5. Why do you think you are violent?
6. Have you been violent outside the home? Describe.
7. Ever been in therapy before? seen a psychiatrist? been hospitalized for mental probs.?
8. Were other people in your family violent? Who? With whom?
9. Describe your mother and father.
10. Describe your childhood briefly.
11. How often do you drink? use dope? use other drugs?
12. What would be your goal in doing this group?
13. Do you realize that we will be contacting your partner? How do you feel about that?
14. What effect is this having on your life?

The last laugh

One doesn't have to be a member of any political party to agree with Margaret Mitchell, the New Democratic Party member of Parliament for Vancouver East, that the male MPs who guffawed and made snide remarks in the Commons when she raised the subject of wife-beating should apologize to the women of Canada.

There is nothing faintly humorous in the statistic that one in 10 women today is regularly beaten by her husband, or in the desire by some legislators to do something about it.

If the problem was considered serious enough to justify the attention of the all-party standing committee on health, welfare, and social affairs, the findings and recommendations that were tabled in the House deserved to be treated with equal concern.

Even without equanimity in approach, no MP, male or female, should have had any difficulty accepting the seriousness or the scope of the problem laid out in the committee's report.

Those male MPs who found it laughable that one in 10 women is regularly beaten by her spouse, if they haven't already lost their wives, deserve to lose the vote of others'.

The only thing that is saving them right now is their anonymity. Kept out of camera range in the House, they consider themselves out of reach of their peers, who found their behavior shameful, disgusting, and ignorant, and the public, whose wrath they would rather not know.

Ultimately, however, they must come out of hiding. When they do, the women will be waiting.

Vancouver Sun
May 17, 1982

Battered wives need help

WHEN one in 10 Canadian women is battered by her husband it's obvious that this country has a major social problem on its hands. It's a problem that certainly warrants more serious attention from Parliament than was signified by the sniggers and muffled giggles from the men of the House this week.

Wife-battering has been around for a long time, of course. That's the trouble. It has been around so long that those who are not affected by it show little or no interest in it. It's a problem they'd like to see shoved off into a corner so that they will be under no pressure to seek solutions.

It's a difficult problem for many varied and complex reasons. Some have to do with the dependency even a battered wife feels toward her husband. Some wives seem impotent to do anything about their condition because they feel an obligation to stay with the husband for the kids' sake. Some fear losing their children if they do leave.

Others may even be groping toward some kind of understanding of the frustrations and anger that give rise to violence within the home. They may feel that if they hang around long enough the problem will clear up and they can begin living normal lives again.

Some remain with their husbands out of allegiance to religious teachings that oppose divorce.

Dr. Fred Van Fleet, a B.C. Justice Institute psychologist, says the battered wife is often a scapegoat for the husband's wider frustrations and hostilities. She is a convenient punching bag. She is probably not able to retaliate. The husband is likely to go unpunished.

Very few wife-beating incidents go to court and only a tiny fraction of that negligible number ends in conviction. Wives often withdraw charges before the case goes to trial.

Dr. Van Fleet's suggestion that police should automatically lay charges where they believe they are warranted merits careful consideration. It would signify that "family violence" is simply violence that should be punished by the law, as any other form of violent behavior would be.

There is no good reason why a man who beats his wife should be regarded as somehow beyond the imperatives of due process.

To help such wives out of the morass of their despair more shelter, financial help and job-training should be readily available. The Vancouver-based Women's Research Centre says and sociological studies elsewhere indicate that most battered women have depended economically on their husbands or have skills suitable only for lower-paid jobs.

In face of all the complexities in this deeply entrenched social problem, the apparent hilarity with which discussion in the House of Commons was greeted this week was quite out of place.

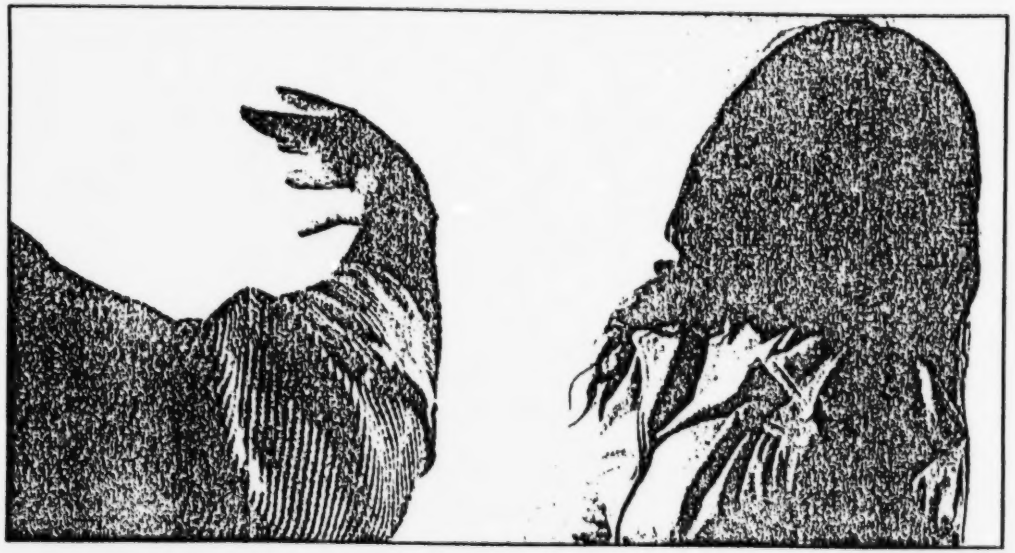
The men of the House should recognize that the problem starts with their gender and that they simply can't leave it to their women colleagues to deal with the issue. The men have a responsibility to join with the women in government to tackle the problem with vigor and honesty.

Vancouver Province
May 14, 1982

Battered women

•What makes men do it?
•Why do they take it?

"I was pregnant with my first baby in 1978 and he beat me up and I lost it. It happened again too, but the third time I said, 'I'm going to have this baby' and I moved out."



MOVING out wasn't easy for 22-year-old Pamela. She'd tried countless times before and always came back.

Pamela is one of 500,000 women in Canada who fear their spouses, hate themselves, and for practical economic and emotional reasons cannot bring themselves to leave the men who make their lives a hell.

They are the women who frequently book off work to go to the dentist with loose teeth, bruises and "wisdom tooth" problems, who wear sunglasses, long sleeves and turtle necks at inappropriate times, and explain to friends how they fell into cupboards or down stairs.

They are the mates of doctors, policemen, truck drivers, lawyers or the unemployed.

They are your neighbors.

And their problems don't begin with their abusive mates.

The problems begin with social attitudes which reinforce or tacitly approve such behavior, and which shrug the problem off with the judgment, "If women don't want it, they can leave."

Why do men beat up their women, and why do these women take it?

Counsellors, criminologists, transition workers, and the victims themselves say that underlying battery is one common theme: a preoccupation with the social stereotypes of the tough man and the submissive woman.

"We have concluded that wife battering is not an anomalous phenomenon; it is bound up with beliefs and feelings which are prevalent in our society and are at present not easily understood or erased. Beliefs about the use of force, the exercise of force as an appropriate activity for men, and submission to force as an appropriate response from women."

—From Wife Battering, the report of the federal standing committee on health, welfare and social affairs, May 1982

ONE BATTERED woman interviewed by *The Province* is the wife of a Vancouver architect. She is well provided for. She has spending money, a good reputation, a family and a husband who is liked in the community.

Still living with her husband, Diane (not her real name) said she knows of many other wives of architects, engineers and construction workers who are beaten.

She said her husband's reputation, social status, and a fear of losing her children to him "has got to be over 50 per cent of the reason" she has not left him in more than five years of marriage.

"I said to myself, 'do I want to ruin his life or stay and work it out?'"

With counselling, the two of them are solving the problem, Diane said.

"It's a syndrome of stress-related professions," she said, adding that her past low self-esteem and submissiveness permitted him to take out frustrations on her.

By Valerie Casselton

LAUGHTER and protests rippled through the House of Commons on May 12 when members of Parliament were told the wife beating statistics.

Peter Lang, vice-chairman of the report on wife battering, which was being presented, said his first reaction was "disbelief" at the report's reception.

"Paradoxically, I think it was one of the best things that could have happened," he said in an interview.

Lang said the incident drew essential, national attention to the subject.

"This is one of the major social problems we have to face today, with unemployment, discrimination against women, and the problems of the disabled."

"The police and courts do not protect them. Temporary shelter is generally not available to them. Existing welfare legislation is often not flexible enough to provide for them. Welfare workers, counsellors, and health care workers are not trained to deal with their problems."

—standing committee report

The report on wife battering, part of a health, welfare and social affairs report on violence in the family, was made by a standing committee of 30 MPs.

"I had no idea the problem was this prevalent," said Lang. "I was not aware of the obstacles that battered women face."

The Parliamentary report on wife battering says that in 1978 Vancouver's Transition House accepted 688 women and turned away 850. That number followed a pattern of refusals over past years, when more were turned away than given refuge.

REGINA Transition House turns away 2.5 families for every six it accepts, and in Ontario more than 30,000 women and children sought help in 1981 but 20,000 were turned away.

Lewis, who submitted a wife battering brief to the government on behalf of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, said 45 per cent of Canadian women live in areas with no access to transition houses or shelters.

"A woman has to have a separate address to receive welfare and a woman can't apply for money when she's living at home," said Lewis. "It's a catch-22 situation."

Women who call police during beatings "cannot count on the police to help her," says the report.

"A study carried out in 1975 and 1976 reveals that the Vancouver police force responded to approximately 53 per cent of the calls they received which were related to male-female disputes," it says.

Lawyers contacted by the battered wife can get restraining orders, interim custody and exclusive possession of the family home for their clients, Lewis said, but the committee, which received her brief, found that often no action is taken.

"It's still a problem, it's rampant, and there are many more battered women than the system is capable of dealing with."

Vancouver Province, August 1, 1982

Vancouver Sun
November 27, 1982

Wife beaters beating the law?

By GLENN BOHN
and SHELLEY FRALIC

The suspects in 68 family disputes in Vancouver allegedly used such weapons as a wooden fence picket, a frying pan, and a pair of pliers.

Their attacks in November, 1981, are described in Vancouver police records in terse phrases such as "kicks in the face," "punches in stomach," and "attempt to slash with knife."

Police responded to calls for help, identified the suspects and victims, and filed investigation reports.

Yet today, one year later, a Vancouver Sun investigation shows that only 19 of the suspects had to answer to a criminal charge.

Eleven were convicted.

The heaviest penalty was a $200 fine.

Was justice done?

There appear to be no simple answers to this sweeping question, only allegations, explanations and excuses for the way the justice system deals with an incredibly complex social problem and crime.

Sorting out fact from fiction becomes more difficult because it's an issue shrouded with emotion and sexual politics, and a subject not fully explained by research.

Even The Vancouver Sun's survey, conducted over a one month period by two reporters, is landmark research. United Way researcher Bruce Levens, who has a

Car 86 helps, A12

proposal before the federal solicitor-general to conduct a more comprehensive, one year study, says nothing of its kind has been done before in the province.

The Sun's survey underlines the fact that few of the reported assaults led to convictions, but it doesn't explain why.

To Debra Lewis of Battered Women Support Services in Vancouver, the survey results show that family violence — particularly wife assault — is not treated seriously by the criminal justice system.

"Police are taught to cool out a situation rather than use law enforcement techniques," Lewis said. "They should be there to enforce the law and the law says one person cannot assault another."

Family dispute cases end up in both the family and criminal divisions of provincial court. Lewis says they should be heard in the criminal courts only.

"Family court is seen as a conciliatory frame of reference," she said. "It waters down the seriousness."

But Judge Doug Campbell, administrative judge for Lower Mainland family courts, disagrees. He said common assaults between a husband and wife are "considered very serious" by family court.

Judge Campbell said the criminal court has a "different priority where on the balance the common assault appears to be less important" compared to serious crimes such as rape and murder."

In its survey, The Sun went through Vancouver police records and traced 68 common assaults described as "family" or "domestic" disputes, or common assaults in which both the victim and suspect lived at the same address. Even at this point, some of the alleged assaults had been screened out because police only write investigation reports on the most serious crimes. The reports are forwarded to Crown prosecutors, who decide whether there's sufficient evidence to lay a criminal charge.

The 68 cases were traced through Vancouver provincial court, at 222 Main, and family court, at 2625 Yale. Since the alleged assaults occurred in Vancouver, all the

"Luck" A13

'Luck of draw' if charges laid

Continued from page 1

subsequent prosecutions would normally go through these courts.

In provincial court, public records show that 14 of the 68 family disputes resulted in criminal charges of common assault. Seventeen suspects named in the November reports were also on the records as being charged with unrelated crimes (impaired driving, for example).

Eight of the cases in provincial court resulted in convictions. Three more suspects failed to appear for their trials and a judge issued warrants for their arrest. There is no indication these accused were later arrested.

Of the remaining cases, a Crown prosecutor withdrew one common assault charge and issued a stay of proceedings on another two. (Both of these administrative procedures basically mean the charges were dropped.)

The sentences, from the lightest to heaviest, were: an absolute discharge (no criminal record, no probation), three months probation, six months probation, 12 months probation (two cases), a $150 fine, and a $200 fine.

Fewer cases led to criminal charges in family court where court staff compared the list of 68 suspects and found the November assaults had resulted in five common assault charges. Another nine suspects were previously involved with other matters in family court.

The results:

The first suspect pleaded guilty and signed a peace bond agreeing to a "no contact provision" (a promise not to communicate or visit the victim), to keep the peace, and to be of good behavior for six months. The Crown stayed the charges against the second suspect after the victim died (not from the assault). The third suspect agreed to a no contact provision and the charges were stayed. The fourth suspect signed a peace bond promising to stay away for six months. The fifth suspect's case was struck off the court list in February, 1982, according to a notation by a Crown counsel. Chances are the case will never go to trial.

That accounted for the 68 family disputes.

Almost all of the victims were women.

Almost all of the suspects were men.

'Frustration'

The difficulties begin the moment a family dispute is reported to police.

A 1978 study of Vancouver police by United Way researcher Levens found they went to the scene of a reported domestic dispute about 44 per cent of the times they were called. They were most likely to go if the caller mentioned the use of violence or weapons.

"The research also revealed that the calls for which police presence was not considered necessary, that is in 56 cases out of 100, little else was done to assist the caller other than to provide advice of a 'philosophical' nature," Levens wrote.

Cpl. Ken MacKinnon of the B.C. Police Academy said police cars are sent out at the dispatcher's discretion, but dispatchers are trained to "know what questions to ask, what to listen for in the background and to consider how serious the offence is and how many cars are available at that time."

Once police arrive on the scene of a domestic dispute, they are confronted with conflicting allegations and a flood of arguments from the quarrelling parties. They must assess the situation and decide whether to leave, refer the parties to outside counselling or make an arrest.

Said MacKinnon: "I can see the frustration of the officer. It used to happen to me. I would go to the same house three or four times, finally get the wife to lay charges and then she would drop them for reasons of her own."

MacKinnon said a woman usually withdraws charges after a few weeks because she decides she doesn't want her husband to go to jail, has nowhere else to go and is pressured by her family, friends and children to forgive her husband.

"We're sort of in the middle here. We have to in a sense agree with the women's groups about the non-response of the police but we also have to look at it from the police point of view," said MacKinnon.

"The police should be doing more and keep going back time and time again. And recognize that perhaps we have not been pursuing our role as strongly as we could have."

Family court administrator Edgar Hall agreed that victims, not the courts, are responsible for so few criminal charges.

"We don't go seeking the complainants. The onus is on them. They have to do something on their own, right?"

Hall, a justice of the peace, said it is policy that alleged victims in family disputes must come to the court to initiate charges. He says Crown counsel interview the victim and almost always lay a charge. Hall says this policy is necessary because the alleged assaults are often over by the time police arrive.

"So the only real evidence you've got is the victim," he said. "She's often the only witness to the assault. It's usually one on one."

Figures provided by Hall show that approximately half of the investigation reports are followed by a complaint. There are an average of 34 common assault and threatening charges initiated in family court each month. In September, 36 victims failed to initiate common assault and threatening charges. In October, there were 34.

Why do so many reported victims fail to initiate charges?

Hall said he can only assume the victim feels the arrival of police "has solved the immediate problem." He said the victim may also consider the implications of criminal charges and decide against them.

Some complainants also withdraw the charges after initiating them. Hall said complainants are required to explain their reasons to a judge before being allowed to withdraw the charges.

'Headaches'

But Debra Lewis charged that victims are frustrated in their attempts to lay charges and don't feel they are supported or protected by the criminal justice system.

Lewis said Crown counsel are inconsistent and "in the end, if a charge is eventually laid, it's only because the woman has been persistent. There's so much discretion, it's the luck of the draw."

George Kennedy, senior justice of the peace at Vancouver provincial court, estimated that as many as one-third of complainants withdraw their charges there.

"Most of them come in and say they love the guy and they don't want to send him to jail," Kennedy said.

Kennedy said common assaults are "one of our biggest headaches." He says the complainant is preferably interviewed by a Crown counsel, who recommends whether charges should be laid.

Kennedy said he is not sure why most of the common assaults in The Sun's survey concluded in the criminal, not family, courts. If children are involved, Kennedy suggests the case should go to family court to give the judge a better overview of the problem.

"It's up to the court whether they want to keep it here or send it to family court," he added.

University of B.C. associate psychology professor Don Dutton has participated in several studies of police response to domestic disputes and was instrumental in initiating court-directed therapy groups for wife batterers in Vancouver.

He was also involved in designing the family crisis intervention training programs for police recruits.

"Police feel really limited powers under these circumstances. In my opinion, they don't get much support from the criminal justice system."

Ideally, said Dutton, police would be dispatched to every domestic dispute call received by police dispatchers. A more aggressive court system would see more offenders in court. Penalties would include a judge's probation order and mandatory participation in a treatment group. Those who didn't change their ways would receive jail terms. According to Lewis of the battered women's group, the penalties are generally much too light.

'Protection'

But Judge Campbell said the public puts too much emphasis on jail terms and significant fines in cases of family violence.

He said that each available penalty in a common assault conviction — fine, probation, restraining order, jail, mandatory treatment — is felt differently by each offender and the court tries to assess each case on that basis.

"Around here you won't find a high degree of imprisonment or fines but you will find a high degree of protection and enforcement," said Judge Campbell.

Susan Painter, administrator of the Ottawa based National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, praised the establishment of group therapy treatment programs for wife batterers.

"The problem was with the attrition between police calls and what actually went to court," said Painter. "When the cases did go to court, the judges didn't know what to do with these men. They could either throw them in jail, which they weren't going to do, or give them a small fine, which is what you found."

She said wife-abuser programs and the courts' increasing use of them — encourage police to lay charges and gather more evidence in domestic dispute cases.

Added Dutton: "I feel the police position in some ways represents the attitude of society in general. We have a strong aversion to disrupting the privacy of the family."

Therapy Groups [illegible] Wife-Assaulters

Dear [illegible]

Your partner has been accepted into our therapy group for men who have abused their partners. We would like to tell you a little about the group so that you know what to expect.

The group is sixteen (16) sessions in length. Sessions are held in the evening from 7 to 10 p.m. and are usually on Wednesday or Thursday nights. Each group has 5 to 10 men in it. Each group member is expected to attend all 16 sessions.

The primary goal of this group is to stop the use of violence. To do that we encourage the group members to understand and express their feelings because violence happens when a man doesn't understand himself and the person he is with. One of the tools we use is called the "anger diary". Every week your husband will be expected to hand in a written record of some of the times he got angry and to analyze, in a certain way, why he got angry.

Another technique we teach in the group is called "time-out". We would like to tell you about this so that you can use it with your husband. If either of you feels that a heated argument is developing to the point where your husband might strike out, then you or your husband may call a "time-out". A "time-out" means that you go to different parts of the house, or one of you leaves the house for an agreed upon period of time, usually 1 to 3 hours. It is best to agree when times are more peaceful, who would go where during the "time-out".

We cannot force your husband to attend this group or to change. He has to decide that himself. If he misses more than one session we will notify you of that. If your husband is ordered by the court to attend we will notify his P.O. who can return your husband to the court to see the judge who may order other consequences for not attending the group.

We hope to meet with you sometime in the next month to answer in person any questions you might have about the group. You of course don't have to see us if you don't want to; it's up to you. In the event that your husband hits you again we have asked that he inform us immediately. If he doesn't tell us it can be grounds for asking him to leave the group. If you wish to call us as well we would be glad to listen to you.

...../2

At the end of the group three sessions of individual or couples counselling is available to each man. We do not in any way expect that you should stay with your husband but if both of you want to stay together then we would like to help.

Our programme is not designed to provide counselling for you as well. We know that it can be a frightening, confusing and helpless experience to be abused by your own partner. It can help to share those feelings with other women so we have enclosed a brochure about resources which are provided just for women in your situation.

Please feel free to contact us if you wish.

Sincerely,

The funding for this group is provided by the Solicitor General of Canada and the B.C. Corrections Branch.

APPENDIX K - LETTER TO SPOUSES

BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES

Battered Women's Support Services was founded in the fall of 1979 to promote services to battered women and provide educational resources on the issue. Our work to date has had 2 primary focuses – to sponsor support groups for battered women in the lower mainland and to do workshops on the issue for women's groups, professionals and the general public across B.C.

For more information, to join a support group, set up a workshop, get a speaker . . . call or write:

Battered Women's Support Services
301 - 2515 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J6

Interest:

- Newsletter mailing list
- Interested in support groups
- Leaders training programme
- Educational workshops/speakers

* I would like to make a contribution to the work of BWSS. Amount encl _____

Name _____

Address _____

Position/Organization (if any) _____

Telephone _____

SUPPORT GROUPS FOR BATTERED WOMEN

BWSS sponsors support groups for women who have been battered. The groups run for 10 weeks, in various lower mainland locations, and are open to all women whether or not they are still living in their relationships. Six to eight women participate in the groups with two facilitators from BWSS.

The purpose of the groups is to provide emotional support to the women involved and offer practical assistance to help them cope with their situations. There is no charge for the groups. Childcare and transportation expenses are provided by BWSS.

Interested women can talk with a facilitator by telephone or in person before deciding to join a group.

LEADERS TRAINING PROGRAMME

At least once a year (usually in the fall) BWSS runs a training programme for women who are interested in becoming support group facilitators in the lower mainland. The training is composed of one weekend session, six weekly evening follow-up sessions, and a final day-long wrap-up. Potential leaders must be willing to commit themselves to facilitating at least one 10 week support group, as well as attending monthly leaders' group meetings while involved in facilitating groups.

Connie French, 1979 Vancouver Women's Calendar

MANUAL

BWSS is currently developing a manual for those who come into contact with battered women in their work. The manual will include sections on medical, legal and welfare policy; counselling, support groups; children of battered women; funding services; and a bibliography. The first sections of the manual will be available in the spring of 1982.

NEWSLETTER

BWSS publishes a quarterly newsletter on issues of concern to battered women. The newsletter provides a communication network among those working with and for battered women in their communities.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

BWSS provides resource people and materials for workshops on wife battering across British Columbia. Workshops can be tailored to the needs of women's groups, professionals (in general or for specified areas) and the general public. Topics covered in workshops include: wife battering from the perspective of battered women, indentification and first contact; protection for battered women – what exists and what doesn't; counselling. Half-day, full day or weekend workshops are available. Input of sponsoring or participating groups into the planning of each workshop is encouraged to guarantee that areas of interest will be covered.

In addition, BWSS provides speakers for high school classes, moms and tots groups, or any other organization in the lower mainland interested in the issue of wife battering.

Beginning in the fall of 1982, we will be making a support group leaders training programme available to areas outside the lower mainland.

BWSS is funded by Family Services of Greater Vancouver (support group programme), the Women's Programme of the Secretary of State (education programme) and through individual donations.

APPENDIX M - SURVEY OF FAMILY COURT CASES

MEMORANDUM

June 24, 1980

FAMILY COURT COUNSELLORS MEETING
Tuesday, June 24, 1980
2:30 p.m.

MANDATORY THERAPY GROUPS FOR WIFE ABUSERS

Unfortunately, due to severe time constraints, we were not able to gather information from all of the jurisdictions in the Lower Mainland area. Alternatively, we chose the Vancouver area since it is the largest jurisdiction handling the greatest volume of family matters.

Available data was collected down at 2625 Yale Street covering a period of the last six months, commencing in December, 1979 up until May of this year.

#1) How many wife abusers come before the Court each week?

90 cases came before the Court in the last six months.

Breakdown:

S. 745 (1) C.C. - Threatening -	19 cases
S. 245 (1) C.C. - Common Assault -	62 cases
S. 245 (2) C.C. - Assault with Intent -	4 cases
Property related (Mischief, B&E) -	5 cases
TOTAL	90 cases

On a weekly basis - 3.8 cases per week.

#2) How many of these have come before the Court for wife abuse before? What percentage?

(i) 13 out of 90 cases came before Court on previous occassions.

(ii) 14.4% approx.

#3) What percentage of these men have been charged and/or convicted of other violent crimes?

2.2% - 2 cases bodily harm

4.1% - 4 cases property related

#4) What percentage of these men are unemployed?

12% - 11 out of 90 cases saw these men unemployed

#5) On a weekly basis, how many women charge their husbands with assault?

- 66 out of 90 cases were for assault

- 2.75 cases per week

#6) What percentage of women withdrew the charge?

47 cases not proceeded with - 52%

43 cases were proceeded with - 48%

Therefore, cases not proceeded with - 21% stay of proceedings
- 31% withdrawal by wife

#7) Does Court ever not let the charge be withdrawn?

- 3 cases where Court did not allow the charge to be withdrawn.

Whether or not a charge is withdrawn, is up to the Court's discretion based upon certain criteria such as the following:

(a) violent nature of assault,
(b) submission by wife or defense counsel,
(c) submission by Crown,
(d) coercion on part of husband, and
(e) any other factors deemed relevant by the Court.

#8)

#9) After a complaint has been laid with the J.P., what are the steps?

(i) Once the J.P. decides to proceed with a particular case, he will issue a'summons to appear' or a 'warrant' for the spouse's arrest.
(ii) Crown receives case for prosecution.
(iii) Defendant appears before the Court in response to a warrant or summons.
(iv) First appearance - Court explains nature of complaint to the accused.
- Accused has an opportunity to obtain counsel.
(v) On the accused's next appearance, a date for hearing is

usually set in the presence of counsel for the accused and the Crown.
(vi) trial is conducted.
(vii) disposition.

#10) What is the average time involved from the time a complaint has been laid to the man appearing in Court, tried and sentence?

1½ to 2 months

#11) What is the usual sentence given for a first offence?

Suspended sentence and 6 months probation. .

#12) What does the law allow as the most severe punishment for a first offence of wife abuse?

S745 (1) Recognizance - with or without surities
- breach - 12 months incarceration punishable on summary conviction.

S245 (1) - 2 years incarceration punishable on summary conviction.
- $500.00 fine

S245 (2) - 2 years incarceration punishable on summary conviction.
- 5 years incarceration punishable on indictable count.

elections by Crown

#13) What factors influence the Judges thinking and decisions, in these cases?

(i) character of offender
(ii) seriousness of assault
(iii) circumstances surrounding the offence
(iv) probation officer's report
(v) previous record
(vi) community opinion
(vii) does the offender need to be punished?
(viii) treatment;rehabilitation

#14) Would Judges use treatment groups as sentencing?

Yes. Judges at Vancouver Family Court are definitely in favour of this concept and will consider proposals in this area placed before them.

#15) Do any of these men receive psychiatric assessments?

Yes, but only 1 of the 90 cases received it.

#16) After the woman has laid the complaint, does the couple continue to reside together? What usually happens?

Out of 43 cases proceeded with - 21 cases (53.9%) stayed together, 16 cases (41.02%) separated, 2 cases (5.1%) divorced.

May 20, 1980

CORRECTIONS

Mandatory Therapy Groups for Wife-Abusers

1. How many wife-abusers come before the court each week (in the Lower Mainland)?

2. How many of these have come before the court for wife-abuse before; what percentage?

3. What percentage of those men have been charged and/or convicted of other violent crimes?

4. What percentage of these men are unemployed?

5. On a weekly basis, how many women in the Lower Mainland area charge their hubands with assault?

6. What percentage of these women later withdraw the charge?

7. Does the court ever not let the charge be withdrawn? If yes, how often; if not, why not and will this change?

8. What kind of counselling (how often and individual, couple or family, job related, etc.) do battered women receive from family court counsellors? Other professionals? How about the men in this respect?

9. After a woman has laid the complaint with the J.P., what are the steps?

10. What is the average time involved from the complaint to the man appearing in court, being tried and sentenced?

11. What is the usual sentence given for a first offence?

12. What does the law allow as the most severe punishment for a first offence where wife-abuse is involved?

13. What factors influence the judge's thinking and decisions in these cases?

14. Would judges use treatment groups as sentencing?

15. Do any of these men receive psychiatric assessments? Under what conditions?

16. After the woman has laid a complaint, does the couple continue to reside together? What usually happens?

APPENDIX N - PROMOTION MATERIAL

NOTICE

A GROUP FOR MEN

who have used physical
violence against their partners

Task Force on Family Violence Support Groups

Since December 1977 groups have been operating under the auspices of the United Way Task Force on Family Violence for men who use physical violence against their wives or female partners. The objectives of these groups are to:

(1) Clearly identify the areas in the man's life which cause anger and frustration.

(2) Discuss how these areas affect relationships with partners.

(3) Look at how the men have handled such stress in the past, and consider alternate ways of dealing with it.

(4) Use the group as a means of support for handling their concerns and stress.

Prior to the forming of a group each prospective member meets privately with the group leader to allow both of them a chance to assess if the programme is a suitable resource for that individual man. The groups are designed for men who choose to attend voluntarily. Referral does not mean automatic acceptance in a group.

How to Make a Referral

Call Flora MacLeod, Coordinator of United Way Task Force on Family Violence at 731-7781.

Referral works best if your client has agreed that either you or he should make the call, to leave his name and a telephone number where he can be reached. This allows the group leader to contact him directly to arrange a convenient time for an interview.

The first meeting of the next group will be held early in July. Initial interviews should be arranged for the last week in June. The group leader will be Prof. Don Dutton, U.B.C. Department of Psychology and Task Force on Family Violence resource person.

To arrange a referral or to obtain more information contact:

Flora MacLeod
Coordinator
Task Force on Family Violence
United Way
1625 West 8th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. Telephone: 731-7781

June 12, 1979

ASSAULTIVE HUSBANDS' PROJECT

Participation Agreement

I _____ agree to join the Assaultive Husbands' Group at the next starting date. I understand that in exchange for my cooperation in the group, the counsellors and other group members will provide me with an opportunity to:

1. Acknowledge responsibility for my violent behavior.
2. End my violent behavior.
3. Learn to manage and express my anger in appropriate ways.
4. Learn new and constructive ways of coping with the stresses and difficulties in my life.

The group will be held each Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at 1311 Commercial Drive in Vancouver.

In return for the help I will be receiving I agree to the following:

1. Attendance and participation. I make a sincere commitment to consistently attend and participate in the group for sixteen consecutive weekly sessions. For security reasons the front door will be locked at 7:15. If I arrive after 7:15, I will not be admitted to the group that evening which will count as one missed session.
   I understand that I may be asked to leave the group if I miss more than two group sessions without a reasonable excuse. Reasonable excuses are illness or unexpected job demands. When I do miss a session for these reasons, I will be prepared to back up my reason with a doctor's certificate or a letter from my employer. I will be expected to make up these missed sessions at the end of my sixteen week period.
2. Leaving the group. I understand that if I leave the group before I have completed my sixteen sessions, my probation officer will be notified and I may be returned to the court for a breach of my probation. My wife will also be notified that I have stopped attending the group.
3. Weekly written assignments. I understand that I will be given weekly written assignments to complete. These assignments are used to help me understand and control my anger and violence. My completed written assignments will be my "ticket" into each group. If I fail to produce a completed assignment I will be asked to leave the group for that week. This will count as one missed session. I may return to the group the next week if I have completed the assignment.
4. Behavior in the group. I understand that the group sessions provide a time for open and honest expression of ideas, opinions and feelings. Behaviors not permitted in the group are acts of violence or threats of violence.

5. Agreement to stop physical violence. I understand that I am responsible for my violent behavior. My signature below indicates that I have been given a written description of the "Time-Out" procedure which I will use when I fear that I may be violent again. I agree to report to the group any violence on my part. My failure to report violence may result in my being asked to leave the group.
6. Counsellors contact with wife or partner. I understand that one of my counsellors will have two interviews with my wife; one interview at the start of my participation in the group and one interview near the end. The purpose of these interviews is to help the counsellors understand my life situation and my wife's point-of-view so they can be of the most help to me in changing my behavior. My wife has the right to refuse these interviews if she wishes.
7. Confidentiality. I will not gossip about other group members to anyone outside of the group. The group leaders will not divulge to anyone outside of the group what I say in the group except when they have reason to believe that I may be violent or am involved in an illegal activity. A brief report will be given to my probation officer when I complete the group or when I leave the group prematurely. The report will indicate what areas I have made progress in, whether further counselling is recommended and of what kind and their assessment of how effective I should be in being able to control my violence in the future. I will receive a copy of this report.

My signature below indicates that I have read the entire participation agreement and that I understand it fully. I have had an opportunity to ask questions about the group and to have those questions answered to my satisfaction.

Date _____ Signature _____

Witness _____

Date of last session(if no absences) _____

APPENDIX P - CLIENT PROGRESS FORM

CLIENT PROGRESS SUMMARY

Name _____ Date _____ Session # _____

Summary: _____

Action to be taken: _____ Recorder: _____

Name _____ Date _____ Session # _____

Summary: _____

Action to be taken: _____ Recorder: _____

Name _____ Date _____ Session # _____

Summary _____

Action to be taken: _____ Recorder: _____

APPENDIX Q - COMPLETION FORM

ASSAULTIVE HUSBANDS' PROJECT

Group Completion Summary

Client: _____ Date: _____

Date started group: _____ Date of last attendance _____

Status: ___ completed group ___ incomplete

Number of sessions missed: ____ Reasons: _____

_____

Number of sessions attended: ____

Brief summary of clients' participation and progress in the group:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

_____

_____

Additional counselling recommended(alcohol, marriage, individual, group etc.):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Likelihood of recurrent violence: ___ low ___ moderate ___ high

_____

_____

_____

Report prepared by _____ Phone _____

Copies of this report have been sent to: